

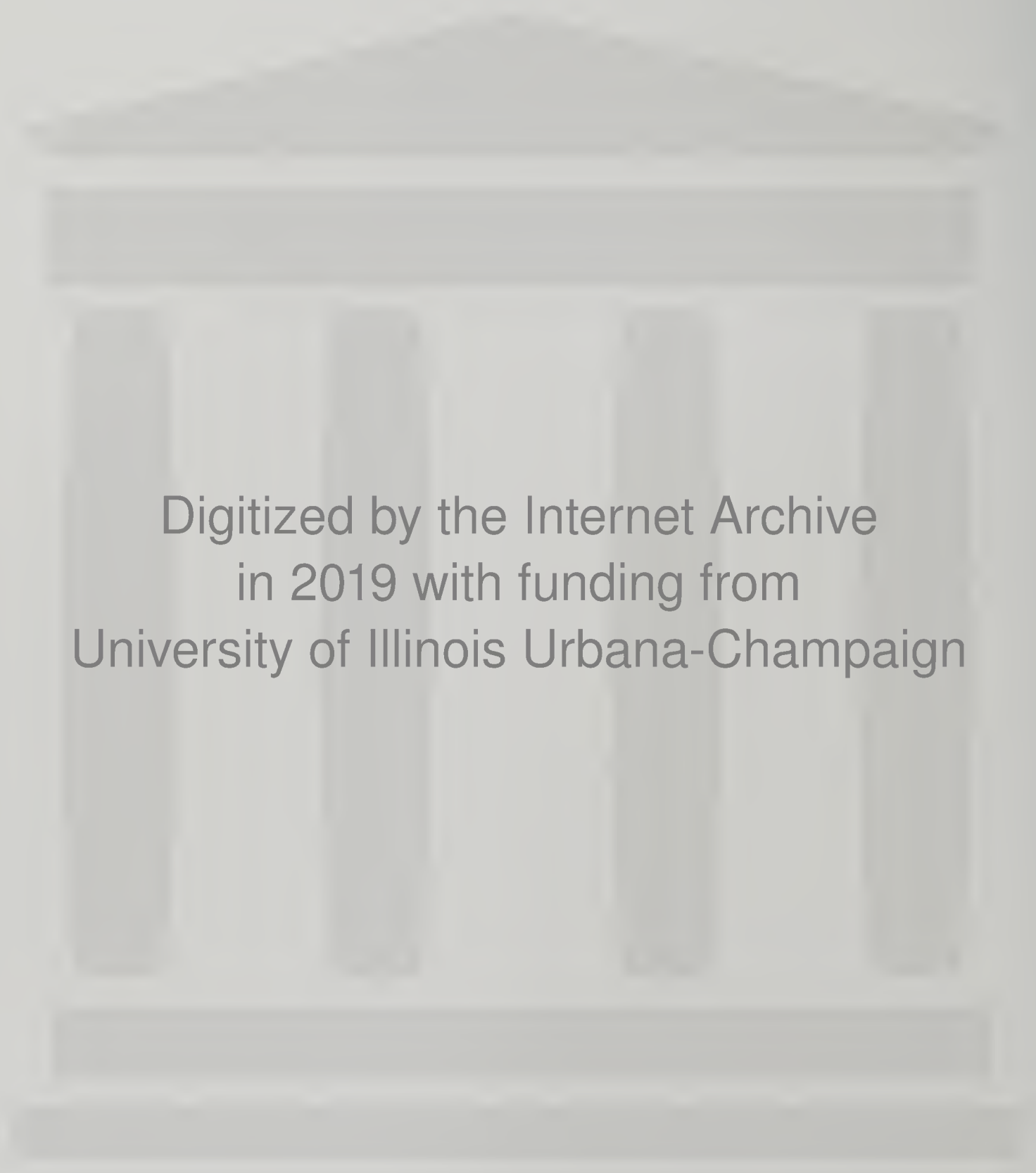
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# **HARD TIMES IN ILLINOIS 1930-1940**

**A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS  
FROM THE  
ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES**

**TEACHER'S MANUAL**

**ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**



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## **TEACHER'S MANUAL**

**Robert E. Bailey  
and  
Elaine Shemoney Evans**

**ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
SPRINGFIELD 2002**







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## INTRODUCTION

The use of local events to enhance the study of American history in the classroom has received considerable attention for the past several years. Teachers have recognized that their students often are not excited by traditional instruction in American history. Chief criticisms have been that textbook treatments consist of dry narratives of impersonal facts which have little relevance to students' immediate lives. And this has been the case despite the fact that one of the principal purposes of the discipline of history is to provide its students with a sense of continuity and perspective. The fifty document facsimiles provided in this study packet are intended to provide direct glimpses of events that occurred during the Great Depression in Illinois over 1930-1940. Each offers a picture of a particular circumstance at a particular time. And each picture asks provoking questions. All of the events described by these documents occurred in Illinois and should be of interest to those who now live here.

*Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940*, is the sixth publication of its kind issued by the Illinois State Archives. Published in 1982, *Windows to the Past, 1818-1880* (now out of print) was a study packet of local history resources drawn from downstate county level records which focused on the rural development of the state. *Early Chicago, 1833-1871*, issued in 1986 and reissued in 2000, is based on sources found in the Chicago City Council's files. Its focus is on the city's development from the time of its incorporation as a town through the Great Fire. *From the Ashes, 1872-1900*, printed and distributed in 1990, covers Chicago's development after the fire up to the turn of the century. *Illinois at War, 1941-1945*, published in 1994, examines the home front during World War Two. *The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911*, released in 1998, studies the making of, the operation of, and the demise of the canal. The formats of *Hard Times in Illinois*, *The Illinois and Michigan Canal*, *Illinois At War*, *From the Ashes*, *Early Chicago*, and *Windows* resemble each other closely and they can be used in conjunction. All six can be integrated into the regular course of instruction in American history.

*Hard Times in Illinois* consists of an instructor's manual and fifty photographic reproductions of documents from the depression era. The teacher's manual outlines the

objectives of the study packet, discusses the nature of the documents, gives a brief historical background for the period considered, offers a selected bibliography, and provides a chronological list of the documents themselves. Then, document by document, facsimiles or verbatim typed transcriptions are presented along with an explanation of each document and suggested points to consider.

Most of the fifty loose facsimile reproductions are the same size as the original documents. Only a few were reduced in order to fit them to the 8 1/2 x 14 inch legal size format.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of this study packet is to introduce students to local history in a meaningful manner and thereby increase interest in history in general. Taken together, the fifty document reproductions offer a kaleidoscopic picture of Illinois over 1930-1940. Individual documents describe very real historical occurrences, but each leaves unanswered questions which can be pursued by studying related documents in the packet, Illinois history in particular, and American history in general.

Subordinate objectives include teaching students how to read historical documents and exposing them to historical reasoning. Besides understanding the texts of documents, students should learn how to identify significant information. Such information will enable them to make specific statements about particular circumstances at particular times. By themselves such events may have little significance. By studying additional sources broader images can be produced and generalized statements can be made to explain isolated events. This process is designed to give meaning to historical interpretation and to broaden textbook narratives of consensus history.

State and local history offers an excellent opportunity to make the study of history in general more meaningful. A focus on a specific locality with which students associate will heighten their interest. It also offers them a sense of how their communities have evolved over time and thus gives historical perspective. But students of state and local history soon realize that the history of a locality cannot be treated as a separate entity because regional, national, and world events were of constant influence. It is hoped that this packet will not only supplement the study of American history but also invigorate it. As well as providing information, primary source documents afford the opportunity to



experience history on an emotive level because those documents were produced by the actual participants in history and describe events as those persons actually saw them at the time they occurred.

## **USE OF DOCUMENTS**

The fifty documents in this packet were selected from the holdings of the Illinois State Archives. Most came from record group 101.000, the Office of the Governor. Louis Lincoln Emmerson (record series 101.029) served from January 14, 1929 to January 9, 1933. Henry Horner (records series 101.030) occupied the office from January 9, 1933 to October 6, 1940. The Department of Agriculture, record group 201.000, was the second most significant document source. Specifically, record series 201.001, Directors' Files, was a rich resource. Single documents were culled from Superintendent of Public Instruction, Incoming Correspondence (record series 106.001) and Secretary of State, Illinois State Library, Extension Services WPA Files (record series 103.220).

Because all of these documents concern Illinois during the Great Depression they relate to one another at various levels. And because all of these documents are interrelated a student or combinations of students can produce syntheses. However, each document also stands alone as a statement of a particular circumstance in time. Research with additional sources, such as those found in the *Selected Bibliography* portion of this manual, often will help clarify a document and place it in perspective. In fact, most of the documents were intentionally selected because they create questions which cannot be answered from their internal content alone.

The fifty document facsimiles are of standard size and are on a sturdy grade of paper. This will enable them to be photocopied repeatedly for classroom use. Most of the documents in this package either were typed or printed. Exceptions are documents 8, 9, 11, 13, 18, 23, 25, 26, 38, and 49, which were handwritten. In these instances the scripts used generally are legible and no transcriptions are provided on the backs of reproductions. If any questions should arise, transcriptions of handwritten documents are included in the *Teacher's Manual*.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The onset of the Great Depression has been linked to the collapse of the American stock market in late 1929. This has been the case despite the fact that no single event or

specific combination of events empirically have been shown to have set off the decade of depression which followed. What can be explained are economic conditions as they existed at the time.

Wall Street investors saw the value of stocks fall by roughly one third from the end of October through the middle of November 1929. Many investors had bought on margin. That is, they had only paid a percentage of the purchase price and had pledged the stock itself as security on final payment. This made the situation all the worse when values fell. But unlike today less than two and a half percent of Americans in 1929 owned securities. Most were unaffected by the sudden slide immediately. Over the long term the bear market, which the crash had ushered in, was to have a significant debilitating effect. Stock prices continued to decline through 1932. Investors with capital lost confidence in the chance of a rewarding return and therefore withheld their money from the market. As a consequence businesses which wanted to expand could not do so due to a lack of investment capital.

The Great War had brought the American farmer unprecedented prosperity over 1914-1919. Then prices fell off sharply in 1920 and stayed down. Nationally net farm income stood at \$9,500,000,000 in 1919. It had fallen to \$5,300,000,000 in 1928. Across the country thousands and thousands of farms failed and were forfeited to rural lending institutions. Rural banks in turn folded when they ran out of liquid assets.

After the World War the United States, mainly through its private banks, had been propping up European economies which had been bled dry by the great conflict. American loans financed trade deficits, war debt, and the reparations imposed upon the defeated nations. European recovery was taking place in the latter half of the 1920s and this vitality was enriching American traders and investors. However, if the flow of U.S. credit were to stop, the entire European economic structure was subject to failure.

Of the total 27,500,000 American families in 1929, seventy-one percent had annual incomes of less than \$2,500, a figure considered adequate for a decent living standard. Forty-two percent of the total had incomes of less than \$1,500 each year. A \$1,500 family income was considered subsistence or below. This was at a time when the top five percent of income receivers were the recipients of twenty-six percent of the nation's total income. Clearly income distribution was grossly inequitable.



Other major economic factors in place in 1929 included the country's gold standard which did not allow the federal government to control the money supply adequately, a lack of government regulation of stock market excesses, and needless inventory accumulations at manufacturing plants. It is difficult to state authoritatively what caused the Great Depression which began late in 1929. Surely most or all of the factors outlined above came into play.

Over 1929-1932 conditions went from bad to worse. Stock market investment fell from \$10,000,000,000 a year to \$1,000,000,000. The value of imported goods and raw materials was down from \$4,463,000,000 to \$1,343,000,000. Exports dropped from \$5,347,000,000 to \$1,667,000,000. Over these years 109,371 corporations failed and left behind over \$3,000,000,000 in liabilities. Whereas corporate net profits totaled \$8,400,000,000 in 1929, they stood at only \$3,400,000,000 in 1932. Industrial production declined by half as did freight shipments.

Unemployment grew by leaps from month to month and from year to year. Some 2,500,000 persons nationwide were without jobs in April 1930. In October of that year the figure was 4,000,000. October 1931 saw 7,000,000 unemployed. A year later the number was 11,000,000. Over these years those who did hold jobs saw salaries cut by forty percent and wages by sixty percent. The farmer who had been hurting since prices had plummeted in 1920 found no relief as production outstripped demand.

Across the county people hunkered down and coped with the hard times. More and more became self-reliant by growing their own vegetables, canning produce, and cooking homemade soap. Marriage and birth rates declined while divorces increased. Very real physical images of the distressed economy appeared in the forms of foreclosures, evictions, Hoovervilles, soup lines, garbage picking, apple selling, drifting, and outright begging. Public school financing became problematic as teachers went unpaid and physical plants deteriorated. Private relief efforts quickly exhausted themselves as resources became depleted and renewed funding was found wanting.

President Herbert Hoover had been reluctant to use federal resources to combat the malaise. The financial crisis of 1931 which destroyed European currencies and set their economies into spiraling depression changed his mind. A total of 659 U.S. banks with aggregate assets of \$250,000,000 failed in 1929. For 1930 the figure was 1,352 with

\$853,000,000 in assets. In 1931, the year of the European financial crisis, 2,294 American banks with \$1,700,000,000 in uncollected assets defaulted. The U.S. was facing economic meltdown.

Congress chartered the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) on January 16, 1932 to combat this threat. From its regional offices the RFC loaned over \$1,500,000,000 to some 5,000 banks, railroads, building and loan associations, and other lending institutions over the course of the year. Later in 1932 the Federal Home Loan Bank Act established a series of home loan banks with combined assets of \$125,000,000. Their purpose was to extend federal loans to private lending institutions which deferred foreclosures on home loans. As a result of these measures only 1,456 banks with assets of \$750,000,000 closed their doors in 1932. The tide had been turned, at least temporarily.

Early in July 1932 Congress had passed the Garner-Wagner bill which would have provided for a massive federal public works program as well as direct federal relief for individuals. Hoover vetoed it on the grounds that it was dangerous and impractical. He argued that relief efforts were handled best by state and local authorities. When Congress then passed legislation which provided a pool of \$1,800,000,000 for the RFC to loan to those states and municipalities which had gone broke, the president acquiesced.

Both the Democratic and Republican Parties met in Chicago in the summer of 1932 to nominate their respective candidates. Franklin Roosevelt, Governor of New York State, was the Democratic choice on the fourth ballot. Herbert Hoover, the incumbent president, was nominated by the Republicans on their first ballot. In the course of the campaign Hoover defended his management during the economic downturn while Roosevelt promised change and largely unspecified measures to combat the upheaval. In the popular vote Roosevelt won by an overwhelming 22,821,857 to 15,761,841 and all of the electoral contests but six.

Roosevelt received 1,882,304 votes in Illinois as opposed to Hoover's 1,432,756. The new president enjoyed substantial pluralities both in Cook County and downstate. Other candidates included Norman Thomas, Socialist, who polled 67,258 votes statewide; William Foster, Communist, with 15,582; William Upshaw, Prohibition, 6,388; and Verne Reynolds, Socialist Labor, 3,638.



Because Illinois enjoyed a diverse agricultural and industrial economic base in 1929, the depression's full impact was not felt here until late 1930. By then the numbers of unemployed had swelled significantly and private relief organizations were functioning at full capacity. The prospect of a harsh winter had many fearing for life itself. Governor Louis Emmerson, a moderate Republican, came to favor a state income tax as the means by which to finance public relief. For this he won legislative approval but the measure was struck down by the state's supreme court as unconstitutional because it did not adhere to uniformity requirements. Emmerson appointed an Illinois Emergency Relief Commission in February 1932. Its purpose was to distribute state relief funded by a bond issuance. This came after private sources had been exhausted.

Henry Horner, a Democrat, was elected governor over Republican Len Small in 1932 by a vote of 1,930,330 to 1,364,043. Governor Emmerson had been sixty-eight years old in 1932 when he had chosen not to seek reelection. Minor party candidates included Roy Burt, Socialist, 39,389 votes; Leondies McDonald, Communist, 12,466; J.E. Procum, Socialist-Labor, 2,986; and W.W. O'Brien, Independent, 1,182. Horner, a former Cook County probate court judge, had a reputation for integrity. He enjoyed the backing of Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak. When he became governor he was somewhat of a novelty in that office in that he was a native of Cook County, a bachelor, and a Jew.

When Franklin Roosevelt was sworn into office on March 4, 1933 most states had either suspended the operations of the banks in their jurisdictions or had allowed them to remain open but operating on very limited bases. This had been done to prevent bank runs in which large numbers of customers descended upon tellers' windows and demanded their deposits in full and in cash. Such occurrences quickly drove banks out of business. Two days after his inauguration Roosevelt closed all banks nationwide for four days by presidential proclamation. Then a special session of Congress on March 9 enacted the Emergency Banking Act. Essentially it gave federal backing to those banks the U.S. Treasury Department allowed to reopen. This bold step revitalized public confidence in the nation's banking system, a fundamental foundation for the economy itself.

Unlike most Republicans who considered the federal government's role to be that of a somewhat distant referee, Roosevelt New Deal Democrats intended to be players in

making the economy work. When Roosevelt and his “brain trust” first came into office their initial intention was to limit production in order to meet real needs in both industry and agriculture.

The National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) and the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) were both enacted in the spring of 1933. The NIRA set up an authority whose job it was to bring in representatives from management and labor in the various industrial fields, negotiate production goals to meet real anticipated consumption needs, and structure reasonable work hours and wages. The AAA was a program by which farmers were paid not to grow excessive crops or raise unneeded livestock. Reduced production was designed to increase prices. The NIRA, which met with only limited success, was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in the middle of 1935. The AAA, which did go a long way towards restoring worth to the American farmer, was struck down in early 1936.

More immediate human needs were addressed by other programs enacted in the spring of 1933. The Farm Credit Administration consolidated federal measures designed to prevent foreclosures and expanded resources made available. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enlisted young men from relief families and employed them mostly in open air projects such as reforestation, flood control, and soil conservation. By the time this program ended in 1942 some 2,750,000 had been employed in nearly 1,500 camps across the country. The Federal Emergency Relief Act provided huge sums to fund relief efforts at state and municipal levels nationwide. Portions of these funds were handed out without restraint while others were tied to a ratio of in-kind contributions by the recipient state or municipal government. Harry Hopkins, Roosevelt’s close friend and advisor and old New York State relief administrator, was named to head this project.

When the NIRA first had been enacted \$3,300,000,000 for public works projects had been added to it at the last minute. The Public Works Administration (PWA) was formed to administer these funds. Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes was put in charge. Ickes, a progressive Republican who had headed a committee of like-minded members of his party who had supported Roosevelt in 1932, was a meticulous administrator who abhorred waste and saw projects through to their completion. The ultimate result was a vast number of very useful public works projects. On the downside



Careful administration caused fewer people to be put to work fast enough to invigorate the economy sufficiently.

Politics played a significant role when it came to federal relief funding for Illinois. Throughout the relief period Illinois received generous allotments when compared to the other states. Chicago in particular was a major beneficiary. Mayor Anton Cermak had backed Henry Horner for governor in 1932. Cermak died on March 6, 1933, the victim of an assassin. The Chicago City Council chose Ed Kelly as his replacement. Kelly shared power with Patrick Nash, the Cook County Democratic Party chairman.

Franklin Roosevelt enjoyed close working relationships with big city mayors who were known to be able to deliver large blocs of voters. Roosevelt and Kelly quickly forged an alliance. Harry Hopkins, Roosevelt's close personal advisor and often times emissary, saw to it that the Kelly-Nash machine had more than its fair share of federal relief funds to dispense to the needy. Hopkins bypassed the governor and had his hand-picked administrator distribute federal Illinois Emergency Relief Commission monies from a headquarters office in Chicago.

Governor Horner's chief advocate in the Roosevelt administration was Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and administrator of the PWA. Ickes had been a longtime Chicago resident and a progressive advocate politically. His sympathies were with Horner rather than Kelly and Nash.

As the midterm 1934 Congressional elections approached the Roosevelt administration was reevaluating its strategy. Clearly the New Deal was not offering substantial comfort or hope to those Americans occupying the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. Millions were turning to more radical leftist leaders. Huey Long of Louisiana would tax the wealthy in order to provide each and every family a homestead worth \$5,000 and an annual income of \$2,500. Father Charles Coughlin of Detroit advocated socializing industry and banking. Dr. Francis Townsend of California had a plan to provide every unemployed American over age sixty \$200 a month for the rest of their lives. Radio addresses expounding these proposals enthralled many. Huey Long in particular was a master of oratory.

The 1934 election gave the Democrats large majorities in Congress and signaled a demand for expanded reform legislation. The first of these new initiatives was the Works

Progress Administration (WPA) which was authorized on April 8, 1935. With this initiative the federal government ended its participation in the dole. Those indigent and unable to work became the responsibility of state and local relief efforts. The WPA on the other hand provided jobs for the able-bodied unemployed. Harry Hopkins was the new WPA chief. Over 1935-1941 approximately \$11,365,000,000 was spent on some 250,000 public works projects across the country. Project scopes ranged from municipal airport to state park footpath construction. A little over twenty percent of these funds was spent to employ white collar workers. At the community level thousands of writers, actors, artists, musicians, and historians found WPA work.

The Rural Electrification Administration was established on May 11, 1935. It provided loans to rural cooperatives which were formed to provide power plants and extend electrical lines to rural areas thus far not served by private power companies. Oftentimes WPA labor was provided for this purpose at little or no charge.

The National Labor Relations Act was made law on May 16, 1935. It provided for a National Labor Relations Board with the power to supervise elections for or against union representation. Additionally it could compel employers to bargain with unions in good faith. This represented an unprecedented gain for organized labor.

The National Youth Administration was created within the WPA on June 6, 1935. Under it high school and college students were put to work at their respective institutions in such jobs as typists, library assistants, and tutors. This allowed many to remain in school and out of the labor market. At this same time funding for the CCC was doubled.

The Social Security Act of August 14, 1935 was described by Franklin Roosevelt as his "supreme achievement." On a permanent basis it provided for an old age pension, unemployment benefits, and care for dependent mothers and children, the crippled, and the blind. For the first time in this nation's history a significant number of Americans were provided a safety net. If someone lost a job, became too old to work, or lost the ability to walk or see, some provision would be made for them. If they died and left behind dependent widows and children, they too would receive benefits.

In the 1936 election the Kelly-Nash machine put forward a candidate to challenge Governor Horner in the primary. Roosevelt offered Horner a federal judgeship if he choose not to run. This incensed the sitting governor who went on to win in the general



election as well as the Democratic primary. Nationally Franklin Roosevelt defeated Republican Alfred Landon by a popular vote of 27,752,869 to 16,674,665.

Emboldened by his landslide and piqued by a series of decisions which had hamstrung many of his programs and in some instances had outlawed them entirely, Roosevelt attacked the Supreme Court early in 1937. He proposed legislation that would have allowed him to appoint up to six additional members to that body. After influential members of his own party strongly objected to this plan as an affront to the Constitution and after Joseph Robinson, the Democratic majority leader in the Senate and a key floor operative, died at the height of the debate, the president agreed to abandon his scheme. The threat itself had served Roosevelt's purposes. Shortly after his proposal had been made two swing justices began consistently siding with their more moderate colleagues in upholding New Deal legislation.

Although the White House was weakened somewhat in Congress by its unsuccessful struggle with the Supreme Court, later in 1937 it was able to push through two additional major New Deal measures. The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenancy Act helped migrant families find housing and helped provide basic medical and dental care. Over 1937-1944 some 870,000 marginal farm families received short-term rehabilitation loans totaling over \$800,000,000. Between 1937 and 1946 another \$260,000,000 was loaned to 41,000 such families on a forty-year basis at three percent interest per annum. These long-term loans offered tenant farmers and sharecroppers escape from virtual indentured servitude. Often for the first times in their lives these farmers found themselves working for their own futures.

The Wagner-Steagall National Housing Act, approved September 1, 1937, set up the United States Housing Authority (USHA) within the Department of the Interior. Its purpose was to establish public housing construction guidelines and to make loans for the same through local housing authorities. Before 1941 the USHA loaned over \$750,000,000 to construct 161,162 units at 511 projects across America.

In Illinois the year 1937 is best remembered for the violent strike at Republic Steel. On Memorial Day of that year some 1,000 strikers demanding recognition of their union marched on the Republic plant at Chicago. A double line of policemen held them back. The sequence of subsequent events is not entirely clear. It is known that ten strikers

were shot dead while thirty others suffered gunshot wounds. Three policemen required overnight hospital care but none of their injuries had been the result of gunfire. A congressional investigation concluded that the Chicago policemen involved clearly had overreacted. It was not until 1942 that Republic Steel and the nation's other smaller steel companies signed their first contracts with the United Steelworkers of America.

The final New Deal measure was the Fair Labor Standards Act which became law on June 25, 1938. By its provisions the minimum wage was set at twenty-five cents an hour and the work week was forty-four hours. No goods could be transported across state lines if they had been produced in whole or in part by children under age sixteen. A wage and hour division was established within the Department of Labor to supervise enforcement.

The worst of the Great Depression in terms of employment, industrial production, and wages was over by the end of 1932. The years 1933-1935 experienced an maddeningly slow but steady improvement in all three areas. From the spring of 1936 to the fall of 1937 all three areas brightened significantly. Then the economy backslid into recession. But recovery came in the summer of 1938 largely due to government spending. As the economy recovered world order deteriorated.

Japan had invaded Manchuria back in 1931 and by 1937 it had consolidated its gains in the north of China and was advancing to the south. The U.S. refused to recognize these Japanese conquests but was unwilling to engage in open confrontation. In Europe the situation was even more grave. On March 16, 1935 Hitler denounced German disarmament as required by the Versailles Treaty and at the same time inaugurated conscription. A year later he stationed troops in the demilitarized Rhineland. Austria was taken over by a Nazi government in March of 1938 and subsequently virtually annexed by Germany. Great Britain and France capitulated to Hitler's demands on September 30 when they signed the Munich Pact which ceded to Germany the German-speaking Sudeten Province in Czechoslovakia. By mid-March 1939 German troops had occupied Prague. The world was stunned on August 23 when Hitler and Stalin agreed to a nonaggression pact. Each was aware that the other pragmatically was buying time.

In short order Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 and on September 28 Germany and the Soviet Union negotiated a new treaty by which they divided Polish



territory between themselves. Two days after Poland's invasion Great Britain and France declared war on Germany in accordance with their mutual assistance treaty with the Polish government. Thus the Second World War began. German armies swept into Denmark and Norway on April 9, 1940 and the blitzkrieg was released on Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and northern France on May 10. By the end of May the Allied armies had collapsed along the western front and thousands of British and French troops frantically were being evacuated from the beaches at Dunkirk in the north of France.

In the U.S. the words "isolationist," "neutrality," and "nonintervention" had been used to describe the sentiments of a majority of its citizens. Most had come to believe that American participation in the Great War had been a tragic mistake. Losses had been bitter and gains unclear. If the world chose to embroil itself in yet another futile slaughter oceans away from her own shores, it was not America's responsibility to again sacrifice her precious sons.

The president disagreed. Japan threatened to control the Asian continent, and Germany all of Europe. Totalitarian dominance over most of the world was unacceptable. Roosevelt had succeeded in saving the American economy from ruin and in the process he had taken pains to preserve its democratic institutions intact. Like it or not the U.S. was very much a part of the world. Economic, political, and social forces abroad did affect those at home. As the world's leading democracy America was obliged to help like-minded peoples elsewhere. Gradually the president was able to sway other American leaders and the American people, especially as events unfolded worldwide. One of the first steps taken in that direction was a joint resolution passed by Congress on August 27, 1940 which authorized the president to mobilize the National Guard.

The United States proceeded to spend its way towards economic recovery as it geared up to aid Great Britain in its fight for survival. When Japan struck America at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 the United States formally entered World War Two and in so doing fully committed its resources to that effort. At that point there was no question as to the demise of the Great Depression in this country. For Americans the new challenge was to defeat fascism worldwide, a goal for which the outcome was altogether uncertain.

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January 29, 1935
35. Letter Concerning The Collapse Of The Chicago Housing Market  
February 2, 1935
36. Letter Complaining Of Unfair Treatment Under A Feed And Seed Loan Program  
February 22, 1935
37. Letter Concerning The Depressed Livestock Industry  
March 5, 1935
38. Letter Concerning State Acquisitions Of Greene County Orchards  
March 11, 1935
39. Letter Concerning Anticipated State Aid For Schools  
April 2, 1935
40. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission Monthly Statistics  
April 1935

41. Letter Requesting Drought Relief For Fayette County  
August 1, 1936
42. Resolution Of The United Electrical And Radio Workers Of America Protesting The  
Treatment Of Edward Parker  
July 10, 1937
43. Telegram To The U.S. Secretary Of State Concerning A Champaign Man Condemned  
To Death In Spain  
September 3, 1937
44. Letter Concerning Race Relations At The University Of Illinois  
October 23, 1937
45. Illinois Wages Of Hired Farm Labor, 1924-1937  
December 13, 1937
46. Telegram From The U.S. Secretary Of State Concerning Potential Harm To German  
Persons And Interests  
November 12, 1938
47. News Release From The State Rural Electrification Committee  
1938
48. Letter Comparing Chicago Poverty To *The Grapes Of Wrath*  
October 12, 1939
49. Letter Requesting Relief For The Daughters Of A Civil War Veteran  
October 18, 1939
50. Letter Concerning The Mobilization Of The Illinois National Guard  
ca. November 13, 1940

**DOCUMENTS 1-50**



## **DOCUMENT 1 – LETTER FROM CHICAGO PUBLIC BATH ATTENDANTS CONCERNING THE CITY’S BUDGET**

**January 13, 1930**

### **EXPLANATION**

When the Chicago City Council met in early January of 1930 to consider a new budget most aldermen were anxious to trim expenses. Austerity was judged prudent not because of the onset of the Great Depression but due to local conditions.

The 1927 property tax assessment had been challenged in the courts and in the meantime collections had been suspended. The city had floated tax anticipation warrants to tide it over. Bankers were warning that unless the budget were balanced, those warrants would have no takers.

Mayor William Hale Thompson and a minority of alderman opposed major cuts. A heated meeting of the full council was held on Friday, January 10, with the galleries packed with city employees targeted for layoffs. Agreement was made to eliminate automobile allowances for all fifty aldermen as well as those for fifty-one police captains. Most city departments were required to reduce spending significantly. Eventually “Big Bill” Thompson and his allies were forced to accept most of the cutbacks.

Public bathhouses provided laundry as well as bathing facilities. In reply to this communication Governor Emmerson wrote “Much as I would like to help you and others in this matter, I regret that it is impossible for me to do so because there is nothing that I can do in connection with these matters.”

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What were the authors of this letter asking the governor to do?

How would free public bathhouses have helped the poor?

What was a “shell shocked” son from the World War?

Why were these women being let go?

DOCUMENT 1 - LETTER FROM CHICAGO PUBLIC BATH ATTENDANTS  
CONCERNING THE CITY'S BUDGET

January 13, 1930

January 13th, 1930.

Governor L. Emerson,  
State House,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Your Honor:-

We are City employees and come under the Division of Public Works. We are Civil Service employees and our title is "Bath Attendants." We were employed in the Free Public Baths, same being maintained for the health and cleanliness of the poor. Mothers and children have patronized these places, and we have handled women and children in the amount of four and five hundred each week. These places are needed, having been in operation for the past 40 years.

There were twenty-one of us women. We have all been in the Civil Service for the past 14 or 16 years. The City has failed to make any appropriations for our 1930 Budget. We are all widows and some of the women in question are mothers of shell shocked sons from the World War.

We appeal to your Honor, Gov. Emerson of Illinois, to protect our pension, and to the City to make appropriations in the 1930 Budget for the coming year.

Your Honor, we are all now at an age where we cannot seek employment in any other capacity.

We also make appeal to you, being in a drastic position, having to pay for taxes and bills which is impossible, on account of losing our jobs, and same upsets our life in general.

We were looking forward to the receipt of our pensions, and now we are in a most deplorable state. We appeal to your Honor, and also to the City to make the 1930 Budget for us as it was in 1929.

Trusting your Honor will grant us this great favor, we remain.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. Mary Gibbons,  
Mrs. Mary McGrath  
Mr. H. Pearson  
Mr. P. Tarmine  
Mrs. Jennie Honabine

Mrs. Catherine Parker  
Mr. Wm. Whalen  
Mrs. Anne Sullivan  
Mrs. Hannah Scanlon  
Mrs. Frederica O'Brien

Mrs. Rose Grenshaw

*Da 900 m n  
(1) le - Chicago*

## **DOCUMENT 2 – TELEGRAM FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT IN ILLINOIS**

**April 28, 1930**

### **EXPLANATION**

When Herbert Hoover was elected president in 1928 he was widely admired as a self-made mining engineer who had amassed a personal fortune, headed the Belgian Relief Commission during the first years of the Great War, headed the domestic U.S. Food Administration after America entered the conflict, and himself had served as the U.S. secretary of commerce from 1921 until his nomination for president. An informal nationwide census of the unemployed was undertaken in April 1930, of which document 2 was a part. Nationally it was determined that approximately 2,500,000 workers were unable to find work.

When this census was made the stock market had tumbled, capital was scarce, banks were failing, businesses were closing, and jobs were hard to find. But the crisis still was viewed as a recession rather than a full-blown depression. President Hoover had held numerous meetings with leaders from the business community and from organized labor in which he received assurances that production and wage levels would be maintained. To this point in time the displaced had been taken care of by local governments and private relief efforts.

In responding to this inquiry Governor Emmerson reported abnormally high unemployment in Illinois with a significant increase since mid-January, no increase for the period March 15-April 15, and a slight decrease for April 1-26. As of April 29, 1930 approximately 400,000 wage or salary earners were without jobs in Illinois.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had the U.S. secretary of commerce telegraphed the governor of Illinois?

Why would a significant number of Illinois workers have been unemployed on April 28, 1930?

Today how does the federal government determine the information requested in this telegram?

Why did the U.S. president want the information requested in this telegram?



# DOCUMENT 2 – TELEGRAM FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT IN ILLINOIS

April 28, 1930

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

<b>CLASS OF SERVICE</b> This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.	<b>WESTERN UNION</b> NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	<b>SIGNS</b> DL = Day Letter NM = Night Message NL = Night Letter LCO = Deferred Cable CLT = Cable Letter WLT = Week-End Letter
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The filing time as shown to the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at State Capital Building, Springfield, Ills.  
 31NG N 134 GOVT

WASHINGTON DC 126P APRIL 28 1930

HON LOUIS L EMMERSON  
 GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

THE PRESIDENT COMMA IN FURTHERANCE OF COOPERATIVE MEASURERS WITH YOU TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION COMMA WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD REVIEW FOR HIM THE PRESENT SITUATION IN YOUR STATE PERIOD FOR SUCH PURPOSE COMMA PERHAPS YOU WOULD ADVISE HIM OF YOUR OPINION AS TO THE SITUATION BY REPLY TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS COLON FIRST IS THERE NOW MORE THAN USUAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN YOUR STATE DECIDE IF THERE REMAINS SUBSTANTIALLY ABNORMAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMMA HAS THERE BEEN A DECREASE SINCE MID JANUARY THIRD HAS THERE BEEN A DECREASE SINCE APRIL FIRST FOURTH DOES THE OUTLOOK WARRANT THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

*Read to Mr. Cohen by telephone to Chicago 11/11/30 to make sure it is not a mistake Sunday*

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

<b>CLASS OF SERVICE</b> This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.	<b>WESTERN UNION</b> NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	<b>SIGNS</b> DL = Day Letter NM = Night Message NL = Night Letter LCO = Deferred Cable CLT = Cable Letter WLT = Week-End Letter
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The filing time as shown to the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at State Capital Building, Springfield, Ills.

AN EXPECTANCE OF STILL FURTHER DECREASE DURING MAY FIFTH IF THERE NOW REMAINS UNUSUAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMMA CAN YOU MAKE A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER STOP A REPLY BY WEDNESDAY WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

R P LAMONT  
 SECY OF COMMERCE

148P

## **DOCUMENT 3 – TELEGRAM FROM GOVERNOR EMMERSON REQUESTING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

**November 6, 1930**

### **EXPLANATION**

Over April-November 1930 unemployment nationwide grew from 2,500,000 to 4,000,000. In response President Hoover ended all new immigration from abroad and appointed a commission on unemployment relief to help better coordinate local relief efforts. During the late fall of 1929 and the winter of 1929/1930 the U.S. Army in a limited number of instances had authorized the lending of cots and blankets to local relief organizations when desperate need had been demonstrated.

Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley responded with a telegram of his own the next day. He stated that although he had no legal authority to grant the governor's request he would do so regardless on account of the "acute distress due to unemployment." Chicago was an immense railroad hub and as such large numbers of jobless men were riding boxcars into it in hopes of finding work. Unfortunately little was available. Consequently the new arrivals joined the throngs of other unfortunates in soup lines and found shelter wherever they could. Local organizations and authorities were scrambling to find means to prevent large numbers of the homeless unemployed from freezing to death during the upcoming winter. Cots with blankets in public buildings afforded an alternative.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was the governor asking the U.S. secretary of war to do?

Where were the cots with blankets going to be located?

What does this communication say about the scope of the unemployment problem in Chicago in the fall of 1930?

If the U.S. Army had the equipment requested, was it morally required to supply it? Why or why not?



DOCUMENT 3 - TELEGRAM FROM GOVERNOR EMMERSON  
REQUESTING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

November 6, 1930

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

COPY OF  
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 6 1930

HON PATRICK J HURLEY  
SECRETARY OF WAR  
WASHINGTON D C

THE EMERGENCY EXISTING IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT PARTICULARLY AND ACUTELY SO IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO IN MY JUDGMENT PRESENTS A SITUATION WITH WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE ALMOST UNABLE TO COPE AND WHICH FULLY JUSTIFIES MY ASKING YOU TO DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER BY WAY OF LOAN OF ALL COTS BLANKETS AND ANY OTHER ARMY EQUIPMENT THAT MAY BE INDISPENSABLY NECESSARY TO BE RECEIVED AND ACCOUNTED FOR BY COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT I HAVE APPOINTED STOP I AM AWARE OF RESTRICTIONS RESPECTING DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY REAL OR PERSONAL BY LOAN OR SALE STOP AM ALSO AWARE IN GREAT EMERGENCIES RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN DISREGARDED AND NECESSARY URGENT RELIEF EXTENDED STOP GENERAL CROWDER WITH WHOM I HAVE CONFERRED AND WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH THIS TELEGRAM THE SITUATION AS IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO HIM BY MY STATE WIDE COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT STOP AFTER PERSONAL VISITATION AND INSPECTION AND AVAILING MYSELF OF ALL SOURCES OF INFORMATION I AM COMPELLED TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION AS ACUTE AND CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF

LOUIS L EMMERSON  
GOVERNOR

PREPAID  
CHARGE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

*Ree 28-Unemployment*

## **DOCUMENT 4 – LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN RAINEY CONCERNING DROUGHT RELIEF**

**January 14, 1931**

### **EXPLANATION**

The American farmer enjoyed an unprecedented period of prosperity over the years 1914-1919. The World War had resulted in high demand for a variety of farm products. But from the summer of 1920 through the end of 1921 prices plummeted. And although conditions improved over 1921-1929, with the exceptions of 1925 and 1926, most farmers had operated at net capital losses. Rural lending institutions suffered from the same malaise with many country banks failing over these years. In response to the farmer's plight federal legislation was passed to place safeguards on the practices of middlemen at grain exchanges, stockyards, and packing houses and to support agricultural cooperatives and other farm credit institutions.

In reply to this letter Stuart E. Pierson, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, stated that for the past four years unfavorable weather conditions had produced poor crops in Illinois and that one good year could make all the difference in "relieving the depressed agricultural situation." He also regretted that there was feeling in Washington "that the period of depression will be rather prolonged."

Early in 1931 the U.S. Congress appropriated \$45,000,000 for feed, seed, and fertilizer loans to individual farmers. Allotments averaged \$150 to meet farmers' immediate needs. Additionally \$10,000,000 was set aside to bolster agricultural credit institutions.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why was Congressman Henry T. Rainey writing S. E. Pierson?

Who might the Hon. S. E. Pierson have been?

What is a chattel mortgage and what mentality would have required one in exchange for food?

What danger did the collapse of major New York banks pose?



# DOCUMENT 4 – LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN RAINEY CONCERNING DROUGHT RELIEF

January 14, 1931

HENRY T. RAINEY  
ILLINOIS

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C. January 14 1931

Hon. S. E. Pierson,  
Carrollton,  
Illinois.

Dear Stuart:

Farmers are probably inquiring from you now as to loans under the pending Drought Relief Bill. I am sending you this communication so you may know how to advise them - I am already beginning to hear from them.

The Drought Relief Bill is now in conference and it will probably not become a law until the expiration of a week or ten days from now - It may be vetoed by the President, this will make still further delay. It is understood that the President is opposed to that part of the bill which provides for loans for purchases of food for farmers and city dwellers. As the matter now stands, \$15,000,000 of the total of \$60,000,000 appropriated under the bill may be used in making loans to farmers and city dwellers for purchases of food stuffs, for which, of course, chattel mortgages must be given.

A person applying for a loan under the bill must establish the fact that he cannot get the money from any other source - the rate of interest will probably be 6%. Farmers borrowing for the purpose of purchasing seed must mortgage the crop to be planted. I do not think this can be done in Illinois. I have not practiced law for many years but my understanding is that under the law of Illinois the crop must be planted before a mortgage can be given on it.

There is nothing new in the proposition we have made appropriations before for the purpose of enabling farmers to purchase seed and fertilizer. This loan goes a little further, however, and provides for the purchase of feed for work animals. Commencing with the Act of 1921 we have had six appropriations for the purpose of purchasing seed and fertilizer, aggregating in all from sixteen to eighteen millions of dollars. Of this total amount Illinois only received \$2,450, and of this amount only \$334 was ever repaid to the government. You will, therefore, note that Illinois never seems to fit very well into any proposition of this kind.

Later on, when the bill passes, distribution will be made under a unit to be organized by the Secretary of Agriculture and under plans to be formulated by them our

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Hon. S. E. P.

- 2 -

Farm Advisers at that time will probably be fully informed as to how loans can be obtained.

The feeling here is that we have entered upon a prolonged period of depression, probably extending over several years and that the worst is yet to come. Approximately one thousand banks failed last year. We understand here that certain large New York banks are no longer considered safe. Agricultural sections like ours will feel the depression more even than the industrial sections.

Very truly yours,  
*Henry T. Rainey*

## **DOCUMENT 5 – LETTER REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING A HARDSHIP MILITARY DISCHARGE**

**March 5, 1931**

### **EXPLANATION**

Military service was purely voluntary in 1931. After the Great War the U.S. Army had returned to being a token peacetime force. Fort Sheridan was located close to Chicago on the shore of Lake Michigan, just north of Highland Park.

Gordon Canning was writing on behalf of the parents of Private Vincent Frederick. In Governor Emmerson's reply of April 22 he referred to a letter from Major General Frank Parker, Commander, Sixth Corps, U.S. Army, Chicago, a copy of which was enclosed. General Parker stated that in accordance with an application Private Frederick had made for a discharge on account of dependency, dated April 2, orders for that effect had been issued on April 17.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Gordon Canning asking Governor Emmerson to do?

Why was the discharge put forth as necessary?

Where was Fort Sheridan?

What were Vincent Frederick's job prospects once he left military service?

DOCUMENT 5 – LETTER REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING A  
HARDSHIP MILITARY DISCHARGE

March 5, 1931

LAW OFFICES  
**GORDON CANNING**  
3301 LAWRENCE AVENUE  
CHICAGO

TELEPHONE JUNIPER 1114

March 5, 1931

Hon. Louis L. Emmerson,  
Springfield, Illinois.

My dear Governor:

I respectfully request that Private Vincent Fredrick (a minor) be discharged from the United States Army for dependency which has come about since his enlistment.

I understand that his father and mother are both sick and have been out of work for a long period of time. They inform me that it is absolutely necessary that they have the aid and support of their son. The mother is seriously ill with heart trouble and is under doctor's care. I further understand that the father is sick with a tumor and is unable to find work.

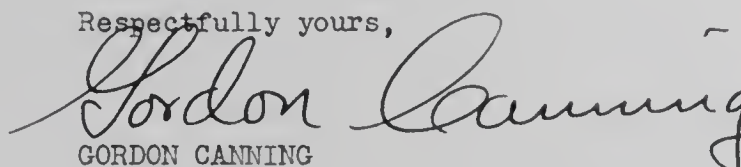
I believe they are both desperately in need of financial assistance and need the aid and support of their son.

The son, Private Vincent Fredrick, is stationed at the Medical Detachment, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and I understand his service has been honorable. He will not be due for discharge until May 5, 1933. He is nineteen years old (born September 7, 1911) and enlisted May 5, 1930 in Chicago.

Any possible assistance you could give these people, by discharging their son from the Army, or by your notifying the Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington, D. C., requesting him to have Private Vincent Fredrick discharged for dependency which has come about since his enlistment, would be greatly appreciated by this family.

From my observation, this appears to be a pitiful case and greatly in need of your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

  
GORDON CANNING

GC:VB

*Inc - 1*



## **DOCUMENT 6 – LETTER SOLICITING APPOINTMENT AS A BANK RECEIVER**

**August 15, 1931**

### **EXPLANATION**

When one thinks of the Great Depression images of unemployed workers standing in soup kitchen lines and of dirt poor farmers plagued by drought come to mind and those images are valid. But the middle and upper-middle classes were affected as well as this letter from a Chicago law firm partner with offices on South LaSalle Street and a home in Evanston demonstrates.

Oscar Nelson was the elected auditor of public accounts and his office oversaw the state's banking industry. By this date large numbers of credit establishments from across the state had failed and were in receivership under Auditor Nelson. Governor Emmerson in a cordial letter dated August 21 wrote that there was no way in which he could be of assistance.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Benjamin Wham asking Governor Emmerson to do?

Who was David E. Shanahan and what was he doing in 1931?

Who was Oscar Nelson?

What was a bank receiver and why did Benjamin Wham want to be one?



DOCUMENT 6 - LETTER SOLICITING APPOINTMENT AS A BANK  
RECEIVER

August 15, 1931

DICKINSON, SMITH, FARRELL & WHAM

J. M. DICKINSON, JR.  
GEORGE D. SMITH  
EDWARD J. FARRELL  
BENJAMIN WHAM  
MARION T. MARTIN  
ROBERT REID

231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO  
TELEPHONE RANDOLPH 4440

JACOB M. DICKINSON  
DECEASED  
FORMERLY  
OF COUNSEL

August 15, 1931.

Hon. L. L. Emmerson  
Capitol Building  
Springfield, Illinois.

PERSONAL

Dear Governor Emmerson:

I have flattered myself that I knew you pretty well for a number of years, especially since I was Legal Secretary to Hon. David E. Shanahan, Speaker of the House in 1923. While I have not been particularly active in politics, I have always kept in touch and am a Republican Precinct Committeeman in Evanston. This last office, however, was largely thrust upon me.

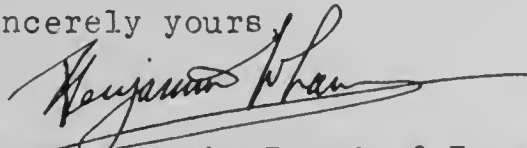
I have noticed that a few lawyers in Chicago are being favored with State Bank receiverships and appointments as attorneys for receivers and I am wondering if it is not possible for me to get some of this business. If there is any doubt about my ability to handle the work, certainly the other members of my firm are fully capable of doing so.

I spoke to Mr. Shanahan about the matter and he seemed to feel that Mr. Oscar Nelson had full control of these appointments. I have talked to Mr. Nelson on the telephone a time or two, but thus far have been unable to obtain an appointment with him.

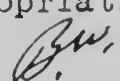
I am wondering if you would care to say a word for me in this connection?

With best personal regards, I am

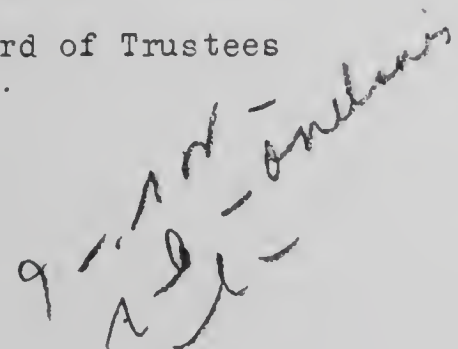
Very sincerely yours,



P.S. I was very glad to see you and the Board of Trustees get together on the University appropriation.



BW:MH



## **DOCUMENT 7 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE REQUESTING INFORMATION FOR THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT**

**October 13, 1931**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Austrian economy had been wrecked by that country's participation and defeat in the Great War. After that war Austria found itself deprived of the resources of its old empire. Workers in the cities and peasants on the farms faced inflation, scarce food, a breakdown of trade at home and abroad, and the burden of enormous war reparations. Although the League of Nations placed a twenty-year moratorium on reparations in 1922 recovery remained elusive. When Austria's major bank defaulted in May of 1931 the government attempted to prop it up by guaranteeing bank deposits with the state's assets. When insufficient loans of gold came from abroad the monetary system collapsed. Unemployment particularly was hard felt in the cities.

Governor Emmerson made his reply on October 19. He wrote, "...I have the honor to inform you that the State of Illinois has not enacted any laws dealing with unemployment."

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was U.S Secretary of State Stimson asking Governor Emmerson to do?

Who was Dr. Karl Forchheimer?

What was a "franked address label"?

Why would unemployment have been a problem in Austria in October 1931?

DOCUMENT 7 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
REQUESTING INFORMATION FOR THE AUSTRIAN  
GOVERNMENT

October 13, 1931

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
HA 023.975-

October 13, 1931

The Honorable

The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you of the receipt of a communication from the American Consul General at Vienna, Austria, requesting on behalf of Doctor Karl Forchheimer of the Austrian Ministry of Social Welfare copies of legislative enactments in your State dealing with unemployment, and I shall be pleased to receive, if it may be found practicable, leaflets or pamphlets containing the information desired.

For your convenience in the transmission of any publications a franked addressed label is enclosed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Enclosure:  
Franked label.



## **DOCUMENT 8 – LETTER CONCERNING A BANK CLOSING IN HERRIN**

**November 24, 1931**

### **EXPLANATION**

Banks are in the business of receiving capital on deposit, paying or not paying interest on those deposits, lending capital to individuals or institutions at various interest rates, otherwise investing capital deposited, incurring expenses for transacting business, and attempting to realize a profit for their owners. Whenever a depositor lawfully requests a withdrawal from his or her account and the bank is unable to tender payment, the bank has failed, or defaulted, or closed. Banks most often fail when borrowers are unable to repay loans or when other investments fail to produce anticipated returns. In the course of the Great Depression bank failures were common. Borrowers from banks simply did not have the cash required to repay their loans over time. At the same time other bank investments soured as well.

In reply Governor Emmerson advised Mr. Sosynski to contact the office of the auditor of public accounts which oversaw the state's banks. Further the governor suggested that Sosynski seek legal counsel.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Walter Sosynski asking Governor Emmerson to do?

Explain the circumstance in which Mr. Sosynski and his family found themselves.

Where could the Sosynski family have turned to for help?

Locate Royalton on a map and describe what it must have looked like there for the Sosynski family on November 24, 1931, two days before Thanksgiving.

DOCUMENT 8 – LETTER CONCERNING A BANK CLOSING IN HERRIN

November 24, 1931

Royalton, Ill.

Nov. 24, 1931

Dear Mr. Emerson:

I am comming to  
you with my plea, to see  
if you could help me out.

About three months  
ago my home burned down  
with furniture, clothes, and  
everything I had.

I got \$2176 insurance  
money and went to the City  
National Bank of Herrin to  
cash the check.

The cashier told me I'd  
have to leave the check there  
for three or four days to see

if it was good.

On the 4th day I went  
to the bank to cash the note, but  
the bank was closed.

Now all the money I had  
is gone & I can't even find a  
roof to sleep under.

I am begging you to see  
if you can help me get at  
least part of my money back  
so I can buy some clothes & some  
thing to eat for my children.

I am over fifty years old  
and out of employment.

I am thanking you  
very much.

Yours sincerely,  
Walter Sosynski

## **DOCUMENT 9 – LETTER CONCERNING A BANK CLOSING IN LANARK**

**ca. July 11, 1932**

### **EXPLANATION**

Nationwide 659 banks failed in 1929 with deposits totaling nearly \$250,000,000. The number of failures rose to 1,352 in 1930 with deposits totaling around \$853,000,000. The figures peaked in 1931 when 2,294 banks with deposits approximating \$1,700,000,000 closed. Beginning January 16, 1932 the federal government began lending a total of \$1,500,000,000 to banks and other credit lending institutions across the country to help shore them up and thus stabilize the economy. This spending was authorized by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act. Despite this massive infusion of capital 1,456 banks with \$750,000,000 in deposits went under in 1932.

When a bank failed in Illinois its affairs were taken over by the auditor of public accounts whose office oversaw the banking industry. The auditor appointed a receiver who liquidated the bank's assets and then allocated receipts, minus expenses, to depositors proportionately. Liquidations often took several years because there were few buyers able to purchase foreclosed properties. Depositors usually were reimbursed a small fraction of their original outlays. In his response Governor Emmerson suggested that Mr. Eby contact the auditor of public accounts.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

J. Galen Eby had written Governor Emmerson. What was he requesting?

Locate Lanark on a map.

What were J. Galen Eby's chances of recovering his \$40?

How might the Eby family have been getting by considering their earned income?



DOCUMENT 9 – LETTER CONCERNING A BANK CLOSING IN LANARK

ca. July 11, 1932

Lanark Ill.

Dear Sir:

I have only  
had 10 months work in  
the last 2 years and  
in that 10 months I only  
made \$16 per week. I have  
\$40 in Savings Deposit  
in the Exchange State  
Bank in Lanark. &  
they refuse to let me  
have a dollar of it.  
I have been out of work  
now for 3 months &  
have a wife and boy  
7 yrs old.  
Could you in any  
way help me to get

that \$40 that would  
keep us for a while  
at least.

Thanking you in advance  
for any help you might  
give me to get the money  
that belongs to me

as ever

J. Galen Eby

Lanark

Ill.

(TRANSCRIPTION)

## **DOCUMENT 10 – LETTER FROM THE MOWEAQUA COAL CORPORATION CONCERNING OPERATIONS**

**July 28, 1932**

### **EXPLANATION**

Throughout the summer of 1932 the United Mine Workers of America and the rival Progressive Miners of America were hotly competing for union representation in the state's beleaguered soft coal industry. The exception was in Moweaqua in Shelby County where local miners had joined together to take over the operations of an otherwise defunct coal mine.

The Moweaqua Coal Corporation had been chartered by the state on September 2, 1931 "to carry on the business of coal mining, to sell coal at retail and wholesale." Some thirty-four subscribers had invested \$1,562.50 in the company's capital stock. The location and general description of the company's property was listed as "nil." The company failed to pay its franchise tax in 1934 and its charter was dissolved on July 18, 1935.

In response to this communication Governor Emmerson suggested that the matter be taken up directly with the U.S. Reconstruction Finance Corporation. If the company did qualify for federal aid, the governor would be pleased to offer assistance in the application process.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Which two things was J. F. Hickman asking Governor Emmerson to do?

What had the coal miners of Moweaqua done in 1931?

Locate Moweaqua on a map.

What is socialism? How do the circumstances described in this document resemble that system?

DOCUMENT 10 – LETTER FROM THE MOWEAQUA COAL CORPORATION  
CONCERNING OPERATIONS

July 28, 1932

Board Of Directors  
J. L. Sparling, President  
J. F. Hickman, Sec. Treas.

D. A. Adamson  
J. E. Thomas  
E. F. Moore

## Moweaqua Coal Corporation

Erie Sootless Coal

MOWEAQUA, ILL. July 28, 1932. 1931

Gov. L. L. Emmerson,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Governor:

The Coal Mine and properties were leased by some citizens of this community last year to prevent the mine from being closed in these strenuous times. Last winter was a very mild winter and the sales were low. We hoisted 31,000 tons until April first.

This mine employed about 110 men last year. About thirty truckers hauled coal from here to adjoining towns and vicinities for twenty miles or more distant.

We are indoubt if we can start operation this year without some money. If we had \$1000 we could start and employ about 150 for the winter which would enable them to feed themselves and their families.

I think we could repay this amount of money barring an act of God or the encroachment of the common enemy.

Is our situation one that the Relief Finance Corporation can assist? A little assistance just now will enable this community to take care of about six hundred men, women and children without outside relief.

We would like to sell some of the State Institutions coal.

I am writing you these facts, briefly stated, Governor knowing that if there is any provision for such relief you will get us in touch with the plan, method and officials.

We assure you that we shall appreciate your interest in this matter more than we can tell.

Very truly yours,

*J. F. Hickman*, Secretary



## **DOCUMENT 11 – LETTER CONCERNING A MORTGAGED POULTRY FARM**

**August 22, 1932**

### **EXPLANATION**

Because the U.S. Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) had no office in Springfield in August of 1932 this letter was delivered to the governor. Chartered by Congress on January 16, 1932 the RFC was appropriated \$500,000,000 and given authority to borrow up to \$1,500,000,000 more in tax-free obligations. Its original purpose was to make five-year loans to banks, to savings and loan associations, to railroads with the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, to farm credit organizations, and to farmers through the Department of Agriculture when emergencies existed. Loans were to be secured by real assets. But as the crisis progressed the RFC became a convenient conduit through which to funnel federal aid dollars. An amendment added in early 1932 allowed loans to states which in return were to provide relief for the unemployed and distressed.

This letter was answered by the governor's secretary. He stated that the governor had no authority in the matter.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Clarence Seymour asking the RFC to do?

What was the RFC?

Locate Fort Gage on a map.

What is deflation and who does it hurt most, the lender or the borrower? Why?

## DOCUMENT 11 – LETTER CONCERNING A MORTGAGED POULTRY FARM

August 22, 1932

Fort Gage, Ill.  
Aug. 22, 1932.

R.F.C. Board,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sirs:—

I am writing  
you for information in  
regard to mortgages against  
our little poultry farm.

We have a 12 acre  
poultry farm, on State  
Highway #3, nine miles  
North of Chester, Randolph Co.

We bought the farm  
4 years ago for \$3000 and  
now I don't<sup>think</sup> it would be  
worth more than \$2000

We borrowed \$1300 from

Evansville Building & Loan  
Association and \$700 from  
First State Bank of Chester Ill.  
at the time of purchase.

Last year we refinanced  
in Building Loan for \$1700.

This is what I want to  
know: We are in debt  
\$2200 on our little farm  
which is worth about \$2000,  
Can you do anything for us?

I am writing direct,  
because I don't think the  
Evansville Building & Loan  
will do any relief work.

Yours respectfully

Clarence Seymour

P.S. The \$700 note is a Security Note.  
We could get by, if that was paid.

## **DOCUMENT 12 – LETTER CONCERNING A PENDING FORECLOSURE IN CHAMPAIGN**

**September 7, 1932**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Federal Home Loan Bank Act was another Hoover administration initiative designed to stem the economic decline. It was enacted on July 22, 1932. Provisions established home loan banks across the country with a total capitalization of \$125,000,000. These banks made favorable loans to building and loan associations, savings banks, insurance companies, and other credit lending institutions so that those institutions would have the cash they required and home foreclosures could be forestalled.

In responding to this inquiry Governor Emmerson wrote that his office had nothing to do with the Federal Home Loan Bank Act. He was not aware of the existence of a regional office in Illinois to administer the terms of the legislation in question. Consequently he suggested that Mr. O'Brien contact a local building and loan association which no doubt would have the appropriate information.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Thomas O'Brien asking Governor Emmerson to do?

Locate Champaign on a map.

Which political party was Mr. O'Brien affiliated with?

What does this document's paper size say about personal thrift during the Great Depression?



DOCUMENT 12 - LETTER CONCERNING A PENDING FORECLOSURE IN  
CHAMPAIGN

September 7, 1932

1304 West Washington St.,  
Champaign, Illinois, September 7, 1932.

Hon. Louis L. Emmerson,  
Governor,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear sir:-

I desire to bring to your attention the matter of my situation at the present time and want your advice as to what I can do to keep from losing my home through foreclosure proceedings which I fear will soon be instituted against me.

I have a house, a green house and 2 acres of ground in Champaign, Illinois. The mortgage is due on my property and I am unable to pay it.

My property in normal times is worth \$ 14,000.00 but at the present it would be hard to procure a buyer for more than \$8,000.00 and buyers are very scarce at that.

I am a man 72 years of age; as a lad I remeber of walking in the funeral procession of President Lincoln as it passed from one depot to another at Bloomington; as a man I have been a follower of his and of the party which he created, during all the time since having arrived at my legal majority.

I am a tree surgeon and normally have work to do most of the time but the depression has hit our community pretty hard and I have not been able to get along very well for the past few seasons.

For references I refer you to Prof. J.M.White, of the Architect School at the University heree, to Mayor Chas J. Mullikin and to H.M.Miller one of our attorneys here.

I am wondering if I can get any relief by getting a loan from the new federal loan board.

I shall be very glad to hear fro m you at your earliest convenience, and if you can see fit to lend your aid in getting a loan on my property in the new loan of the government I shall appreciate it.

Very truly, *Thos O'Brien*

## **DOCUMENT 13 – LETTER CONCERNING A PENDING TAX SALE IN VENICE**

**September 9, 1932**

### **EXPLANATION**

A tax sale occurs when a property owner has not paid taxes due and as a consequence the taxing authority, usually the county government, sells the property in question at public auction. Proceeds from the sale are used to pay the taxes owed and if a balance remains after that, the balance is paid over to the former property owner. During the course of the Great Depression taxing authorities were not anxious to conduct tax sales. Oftentimes there were few or no buyers. Voters did not take kindly to hardhearted revenue collectors.

The governor's secretary responded to this inquiry. He advised Mr. Dierkes to contact a local building and loan association and through it apply to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for a loan to pay his back taxes.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What were Joseph and Josephine Dierkes asking the governor to do?

Locate Venice on a map.

If property taxes were not collected how would the community of Venice have paid for public services in 1932?

What would happen today if a homeowner has not paid his or her property taxes for three years?

DOCUMENT 13 – LETTER CONCERNING A PENDING TAX SALE IN  
VENICE

September 9, 1932

Venice Sept 9. 1932.

Gov. Emmerson

Dear Sir:

We owe 3 year's  
taxess on our home and  
have Fifteen hundred Dollar's Loan  
on it

Will you please help  
us to git the money out  
of the home Loan

They told us  
to day we had to pay  
our taxess or we would  
loose our home.

We are old and  
have six children 3 married  
and 2 miner's havent had  
butt very little work for 3 year's

Please be so kind and  
let us know what  
we can do to save our  
home its all we have

Respecktfully

Joseph and Josephine Dierkes

1003 Fourth Street Venice Ills

(TRANSCRIPTION)



**DOCUMENT 14 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FASCIST  
ITALY**

**October 17, 1932**

**EXPLANATION**

Italy after the Great War mostly was torn between communists, socialists, fascists, and nationalists. Over time the socialists were absorbed by the Communist Party and the nationalists became part of the Fascist Party. The Fascists staged a successful coup over October 28-31, 1922 when they marched on Rome in four columns, were received by King Victor Emmanuel III as the legitimate government, and installed Benito Mussolini as the premier as well as the minister of both foreign affairs and the interior. Excepting a few scattered incidents the takeover was bloodless.

Governor Emmerson wrote his reply on October 24. Concluding he stated, “I know of no trouble along this line, and wish to advise that every effort will be made in Illinois to see that the Italian citizens, as well as those of other nationalities, are accorded full protection by the State government.”

**POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Secretary Stimson asking Governor Emmerson to do?

What is fascism?

Who was Benito Mussolini?

Which Italian faction might have opposed fascism?

DOCUMENT 14 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FASCIST  
ITALY

October 17, 1932

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1932

In reply refer to  
DP 811.00B/1352

The Honorable  
The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a note of  
October 10, 1932, received in the Department of State  
from the Royal Italian Ambassador in Washington rela-  
tive to his belief in the possibility that acts of  
violence may be attempted against Italian personalities  
and institutions in the United States, by persons op-  
posed to the present political régime in Italy, on the  
occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the establishment  
of Fascism (October 28 to 31).

In view of the presence of Italian consular offi-  
cers at Chicago and Springfield, I consider it appropri-  
ate to invite your earnest consideration to the matter  
and would appreciate your advising me of any measures  
which

-2-

which you may consider possible and proper to take in  
the circumstances.

Copies of the Ambassador's note are being trans-  
mitted to the appropriate Federal and State authorities.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Henry A. Stimson*

Enclosure:  
From Italian Embassy,  
October 10, 1932.

## **DOCUMENT 15 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION CONCERNING FEDERAL DOLLARS REQUESTED**

**October 27, 1932**

### **EXPLANATION**

From the final two months of 1929 to mid-summer 1932 private charities and state and local governmental agencies struggled to provide immediate relief for the unemployed and otherwise destitute. The federal government had resisted cries for assistance, believing that local efforts were the only ones appropriate. But by the summer of 1932 state and local resources largely had been expended and the crisis demanded the intervention of the national government.

The Emergency Relief and Construction Act was passed by Congress and became law on July 21, 1932. Under that legislation's terms the states could apply to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for loans bearing an interest rate of three percent. The loaned federal money was to be used for relief purposes. When Governor Emmerson first made his application he asked for \$23,000,000. Although his request quickly was approved on July 27 the corporation's directors initially granted only \$3,000,000. Emmerson was advised to go back to his legislature and there request increased taxes and other revenue sources in order to fully finance his state's relief requirements.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had Fred C. Croxton written Governor Emmerson?

What was the Reconstruction Finance Corporation?

What was the \$6,303,150 going to be used for?

Should the federal government have responsibility for relief for the unemployed?



DOCUMENT 15 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE  
CORPORATION CONCERNING FEDERAL DOLLARS  
REQUESTED

October 27, 1932

RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION  
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1932.

Honorable Louis L. Emmerson,  
Governor of Illinois,  
State House,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Governor Emmerson:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your application,  
dated October 24, 1932, for Six Million, Three Hundred Three  
Thousand, One Hundred Fifty (\$6,303,150.00) Dollars, for the follow-  
ing counties of your State:

Adams	Jackson	Ogle
Alexander	Jefferson	Peoria
Bond	Jersey	Perry
Bureau	Kane	Pulaski
Cass	Kankakee	Putnam
Christian	Kendall	Randolph
Clark	Knox	Rock Island
Clinton	Lake	St. Clair
Coles	LaSalle	Saline
Cook	Lawrence	Sangamon
DeKalb	Lee	Schuyler
DeWitt	Livingston	Tazewell
DuPage	Macon	Union
Edgar	Macoupin	Vermilion
Edwards	Madison	Warren
Franklin	Marion	Washington
Fulton	Massac	Whiteside
Gallatin	McDonough	Will
Grundy	MoLean	Williamson
Hamilton	Montgomery	Winnebago
Henry	Morgan	

Sincerely yours,

*Fred C. Croxton*  
Fred C. Croxton,  
Assistant to the Directors.

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**DOCUMENT 16 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE  
CORPORATION CONCERNING FEDERAL DOLLARS  
MADE AVAILABLE AS OF APRIL 15, 1933**

**May 6, 1933**

**EXPLANATION**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been inaugurated as the nation's thirty-second president on March 4, 1933. He, much more so than Herbert Hoover had been, was open to massive infusions of federal assistance to help redress the worst abuses of the failed economy. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was the channel for federal relief funds for the period July 27, 1932-May 29, 1933. During that time Illinois received a total of \$55,443,721 in assistance. Cook County alone was allocated \$41,604,477 while the balance went to those sixty-one downstate counties which had applied for these monies (see document 15).

Henry Horner, the state's first Jewish governor, had been a progressive Cook County probate court judge. He and fellow Democrat Franklin Roosevelt had been elected on November 8, 1932. Governor Horner had taken his oath of office on January 9, 1933.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was R. J. Lindquist asking Governor Horner to do?

Document 15 is dated October 27, 1932 and document 16 is May 6, 1933. What had happened in the interval?

Convert 1933 dollars to dollars today.

How far would roughly forty million 1933 dollars go today in meeting the state's welfare expenditures?

DOCUMENT 16 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE  
CORPORATION CONCERNING FEDERAL DOLLARS  
MADE AVAILABLE AS OF APRIL 15, 1933

May 6, 1933

RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION  
WASHINGTON

May 6, 1933.

Hon. Henry Horner, Governor,  
State of Illinois,  
Springfield, Illinois.

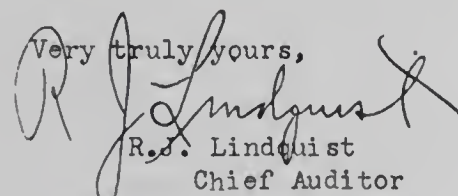
Dear Sir:

We are making an audit of the Chicago Custodian of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, as of the close of business April 15, 1933.

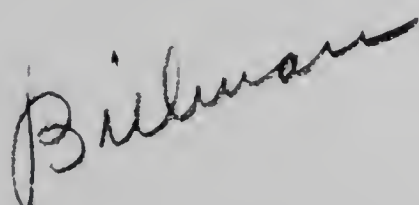
The following is the status of the relief authorizations granted to the State of Illinois as of the close of business April 15, 1933.

Loan No.	Amount Authorized	Amount Disbursed	Undisbursed Balance at 4/15/33
851	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	None
1241	6,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	None
1242	5,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	None
1403	6,303,150.00	6,303,150.00	None
1598	4,935,078.00	4,935,078.00	None
1847	485,000.00	485,000.00	None
1848	518,250.00	518,250.00	None
1849	6,245,143.00	1,561,285.00	\$ 4,683,858.00
	3,725,000.00	--	3,725,000.00
Apr 14 -	3,625,000.00	--	3,625,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$39,836,621.00</u>	<u>\$27,802,763.00</u>	<u>\$12,033,858.00</u>

Kindly have the above information checked with the State records and certify as to the correctness thereof on the duplicate of this letter, noting any exceptions thereon.

Very truly yours,  
  
R. J. Lindquist  
Chief Auditor

ARB:IF





## **DOCUMENT 17 – LETTER CONCERNING PROSECUTION OF AN ILLINOIS PROHIBITION LAW VIOLATION**

**June 21, 1933**

### **EXPLANATION**

Three quarters of the states had voted to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors throughout the country on January 29, 1919 when the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution had been ratified. Over the years that followed this prohibition had been violated flagrantly, particularly in Chicago. An Illinois Constitutional Convention voted to repeal prohibition on July 10, 1933. When Utah voted for repeal on December 5, 1933 three quarters of the states had done so and consequently the Twenty-first Amendment had been ratified. The Twenty-first Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.

In replying to this letter the governor's secretary wrote that the attorney general's opinion had been sought regarding this matter. The attorney general believed that the governor lacked the authority to issue a general amnesty but could issue pardons on a case by case basis. No commitment was made to issue a pardon.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Harry I. Weisbrod asking Governor Horner to do?

What was the "18th amendment"?

Explain Mr. Weisbrod's reasoning.

Why was prohibition a failure in this county?

DOCUMENT 17 – LETTER CONCERNING PROSECUTION OF AN ILLINOIS  
PROHIBITION LAW VIOLATION

June 21, 1933

*Re -  
Violations of  
Prohibition Laws*

STATE 2727

HARRY I. WEISBROD  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
SUITE 1815-1819-77 WEST WASHINGTON ST  
CHICAGO

June 21, 1933

Honorable Henry Horner  
Governor of the State of Illinois  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Governor:

I represent a client who was indicted on March 3rd of this year, in Kane County, for a violation of the Illinois Prohibition Law, which has since been repealed. On January 4, 1933, bills were introduced in both houses for the repeal of the Search and Seizure law and the state prohibition act and approved by your Excellency on March 13, 1933.

The electorate of the State of Illinois has memorialized both the legislature and Congress in the repeal of this vicious legislation which has remained on the statute books for the past thirteen years. In the light of the states that have already voted to ratify the repeal of the 18th amendment and the three additional states which voted yesterday, I desire to secure an expression from you as to whether the State of Illinois is to be burdened with feeding prisoners for a violation of this law.

I have had a long distance conversation with the States Attorney of Kane County relative to my client and it was his desire to proceed with the prosecution notwithstanding that there is no law on our statute books at the present time. In view of your economy program, do you not think, Governor, that through your gracious office a proclamation of amnesty should be issued at once or as a matter of political expediency, as soon as the legislature adjourns. Mr. Carberry, the states attorney, said that if I would communicate with you and receive an expression that you would issue a proclamation of amnesty, he would be guided by such expression in nolle pressing all prohibition cases in his county as they have done in other states. Governor, it is needless for me to advise you of the expense entailed in prosecuting these cases in the light of the fact that this law has been removed from the statute books.

With kindest regards, I am

HIW:MS

Cordially yours,

*Harry I. Weisbrod*

## **DOCUMENT 18 – LETTER FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON REQUESTING A PENSION FOR A WAR VETERAN’S WIDOW**

**October 1, 1933**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Century of Progress was a world’s fair held in Chicago over 1933-1934 to mark advances over the last hundred years. More specifically it celebrated the hundred years which had passed since Chicago had been incorporated as a town in 1833. Grounds were located on 427 acres along the lakeshore from 12th Street to Pershing Road. At the heart of the exposition was the Hall of Science, a futuristic structure of some 400,000 square feet filled with hands-on exhibits and helpful interpreters.

Apparently Walter Reichardt had had an exceedingly intense military career. According to this document he had served in nearly all of the active theaters during his enlistment: Spanish American War, mainly in Cuba (1898); Philippine Insurrection, Philippine Islands (1899-1901); Boxer Rebellion, China (1900); Mexican Border, Mexico and the American Southwest (1916-1917); and the Great War, mostly in France (1917-1918).

The governor’s secretary responded to this inquiry on October 9. He informed Mrs. Reichardt that Illinois did not pay a soldier’s widow’s pension and advised her to contact the U.S. Bureau of Pensions in Washington, D.C.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Mrs. Reichardt asking Governor Horner to do?

What was the “Century of Progress”?

What kind of trouble had the U.S. experienced with Mexico during 1916-1917?

In your view was Mrs. Reichardt entitled to a pension?



DOCUMENT 18 – LETTER FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON REQUESTING A  
PENSION FOR A WAR VETERAN'S WIDOW

October 1, 1933

Seattle, Washington

October 1, 1933

Gov. Henry Horner,

My dear Sir.-

Not knowing who to direct  
this letter to for the following  
information I feel certain you  
will place it in the right hands.

My husband died on May 8<sup>th</sup>  
at his desk in the Hall of Science,  
Century of Progress. We are residents  
of Illinois and I am writing to  
see if there is a pension available  
to a widow in the State of Illinois.

Walter Reichardt (my husband)  
was a veteran of the Boxer Rebellion  
in China (cited for ~~p~~ bravery) in the  
Spanish American War, Phillipine  
Insurrection, Mexican Border  
trouble and two years and four months  
in France during the World War  
I have been unable to claim a  
pension from the Spanish American  
or World War as his <sup>death</sup> was not  
due to either war. He left no  
estate and it seems as though  
a mans widow who has served  
his country such as he has  
is entitled to a pension, however  
small.

Very truly,

Mrs. Walter Reichardt

4710 University Way

Seattle, Wash.

(TRANSCRIPTION)

## **DOCUMENT 19 – EXECUTIVE ORDER ACTIVATING SELECTED UNITS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD**

**October 5, 1933**

### **EXPLANATION**

Throughout most of the 1930s the United Mine Workers of America and the rival Progressive Mine Workers of America were competing to represent Illinois coal miners (see also document 24). The colorful and powerful John L. Lewis ran the United Mine Workers with an iron hand. He recognized that times were hard and was willing to work with mine operators so as to assure his members employment. The Progressive Mine Workers believed in local autonomy and were much more inclined to confront owners concerning wages and working conditions.

Peabody Coal Company mine number 43 near Harrisburg, the county seat of Saline County, was the main location of the violence identified in this document. Harrisburg was a stronghold of the Progressive Mine Workers. Peabody mine number 43 had negotiated a contract to employ exclusively United Mine Workers members. Word got out on October 4 that when it came time to change the shift at number 43 that United Mine Workers from neighboring Williamson County would be arriving to report for work. An estimated 1,500 Progressive miners surrounded mine number 43 and blocked all entry and exit. Newspapers reported 5,000 shots being fired by the Progressives into the mine property. Thirteen United Mine Workers and three bystanders were wounded. The nearly twenty-four hour siege was lifted on the evening of October 5 when six companies of National Guardsmen arrived and restored order with fixed bayonets.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Governor Horner instructing the adjutant general to do?

What is an “executive order”?

Locate Saline County on a map.

Describe the “public disorder and danger” which took place in Saline County in early October 1933.

DOCUMENT 19 – EXECUTIVE ORDER ACTIVATING SELECTED UNITS OF  
THE NATIONAL GUARD

October 5, 1933



SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER

To The Adjutant General of Illinois,  
Springfield, Illinois.

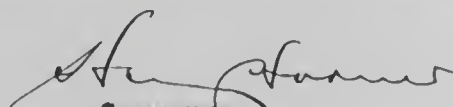
It being apparent that there is in the County of Saline and State of Illinois, a tumult or riot in progress and a mob or body of men acting together by force attempting to commit, and committing violence, and by force attempting to offer and committing violence to persons and property, and by force of violence attempting to break and resist, and by force of violence breaking and resisting the laws of the State, therefore, it is deemed that a time of public disorder and danger exists in certain portions of Saline County.

Now, therefore, because of the said conditions existing in the said County of Saline, and by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by law, I hereby direct and command you to at once order such forces as, in your judgment, you deem necessary to meet the emergency.

You are hereby directed to designate the officer to assume command of said troops, the officer so designated will, according to the military law and usage and the directions of the military code of this State, take immediate active steps to re-establish law and order, and to protect life and property.

In executing these orders the indicated officer will exercise a careful discretion and take such measures as shall be deemed necessary to preserve life and property, restore peace and execute the laws of the State of Illinois. In carrying out this order, you are hereby authorized to take and use such property and means as shall be necessary to the execution of the same.

Dated at Springfield, Illinois, this Fifth day of October,  
A. D. 1933.

  
Governor.



## DOCUMENT 20 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONCERNING THE *GRAF ZEPPELIN*

October 19, 1933

### EXPLANATION

The *Graf Zeppelin* paid a visit to Chicago on October 27, 1933 to celebrate the Century of Progress exposition which was being held there (see document 18 explanation). Adolph Hitler had become Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933. He removed his country's delegations to the World Disarmament Conference and the League of Nations on October 14, 1933. The Nazi Party's most hated political opponent at home was the Communist Party.

The *Graf Zeppelin* and the *Hindenburg*, both German airships, were the most impressive and luxurious mode of air transport of their day. As such they were used by the German government as ambassadors to display German accomplishment and prestige. The *Graf Zeppelin* regularly ferried passengers between Germany and Brazil until the *Hindenburg* exploded in Lakehurst, New Jersey on May 6, 1937 and commercial airship traffic ended.

### POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why had the U.S. secretary of state written the governor of Illinois?

What was the *Graf Zeppelin*?

Why was there a "possibility of a Communist attack on the airship"?

Describe the German government of October 1933.

DOCUMENT 20 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING THE *GRAF ZEPPELIN*

October 19, 1933

ADDRESS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



In reply refer to  
PC

RECEIVED  
OCT 21 1933  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 1933

The Honorable  
The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:  
The following is an excerpt of a note which has  
been received from the German Embassy with reference  
to the forthcoming visit of the German airship "GRAF  
ZEPPELIN".

"By direction of my Government, I have  
the honor, referring to the Embassy's note of  
August 17th of this year, to inform Your Excellency,  
hereinafter, of the itinerary of the German air-  
ship "Graf Zeppelin" during its projected visit  
to the United States:

"Coming from Pernambuco, the airship will  
probably land at Miami, Florida early on the  
morning of October 23rd, and will continue the  
flight to Akron, Ohio, on the same evening; it  
is to reach Akron on the evening of October 24th.  
During the night of the 26th a round trip to  
Chicago from Akron will be started. If weather  
conditions permit, a call will be made there on  
the morning of October 27th. The airship will  
return to Akron on the same day and will start  
the return trip to Europe from there on October 28th,  
on a direct course.

"Since information has been received from the  
most varied quarters, as I point out confidentially,  
according to which the possibility of a Communist

attack

-2-

attack on the airship, which carries the  
two German national insignia, the black, white  
and red flag and the swastika, at the same time,  
to be taken into consideration during its stay  
in the United States, I should be grateful to  
Your Excellency if you would be good enough to  
request the proper American authorities to  
take suitable measures for the protection of  
the airship and those on board."

I trust that it will be possible for you to take  
adequate precautionary measures in view of the situation  
described by the German Ambassador.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Colle Akue*

## **DOCUMENT 21 – FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PHOTOGRAPH**

**1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

For the United States no individual more aptly personified the era of the Great Depression than did Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was beloved by clear majorities which without precedent elected him president four times in a row. Meanwhile his opponents often hated him and characterized him as a demagogue and a traitor to his own class. Roosevelt pragmatically sought means by which to relieve the suffering the failed economy had caused. As many of his programs were found unworkable or unconstitutional he turned to alternative ones. All the while he worked to preserve the American capitalistic system rather than replace it.

A large part of Roosevelt's popularity grew out of the personal connections he was able to make with the American people. His often plain but eloquent addresses to immediate crowds and to radio audiences endeared him to millions. A large number of citizens believed that they knew their president personally and that he genuinely was concerned with their own individual problems.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Who was Franklin D. Roosevelt?

On which coin does Franklin Roosevelt's profile appear?

In which years was Franklin Roosevelt elected president?

Why had he sent his photograph "to the pupils and teachers of the United States"?



DOCUMENT 21 – FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PHOTOGRAPH

1934

*To the pupils and teachers of the United States  
Franklin D. Roosevelt*



## **DOCUMENT 22 – LETTER CONCERNING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE STATE AGRICULTURAL CONCILIATORY COMMITTEE**

**January 12, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Beginning in the spring of 1933 Illinois as well as other states had established a State Agricultural Conciliatory Committee which in turn oversaw county level conciliation and debt adjustment committees. Regional supervisors helped farmers prepare applications and shepherded them through the system. Local committees were composed of farmers and farm creditors who through voluntary proceedings arranged agreements whereby farmers could forestall foreclosures and work out debt payments over time. In the majority of cases refinancing was arranged through the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis. From April 1, 1933 through December 1, 1934 some 3,200 individual Illinois farms had been saved through this process.

William E. Tanner, a successful Kankakee County farmer, had served on his county's local conciliation and adjustment committee. When Gustav Kramer had died, Tanner had been selected as his replacement. Tanner like Kramer before him was the choice of the United Farmers of Illinois, an influential organization whose recommendation the governor listened to.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had William Tanner written Governor Horner?

Why was William Tanner accepting the appointment the governor had made?

According to William Tanner what did nature have to do with justice?

What was the State Agricultural Conciliatory Committee?

DOCUMENT 22 – LETTER CONCERNING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE  
STATE AGRICULTURAL CONCILIATORY COMMITTEE

January 12, 1934

MEMBERS OF LOCAL  
COMMITTEE

HARRY GERDES, Pres.  
Grant Park  
WM. E. TANNER, Sec.  
Kankakee  
JOHN BUTZ  
Kankakee  
W. A. DENNISON  
Kankakee  
FRED MANN  
Kankakee

MEMBER OF STATE COMMITTEE, KANKAKEE DIST.  
G. A. KRAMER, Kankakee

KANKAKEE COUNTY  
CONCILIATION & DEBT ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE

(UNDER APPOINTMENT BY GOVERNOR HORNER)

KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS OF LOCAL  
COMMITTEE

MARTIN NORDMEYER  
Chebanse  
WILLIAM RICE  
Manteno  
FRED SNOW  
Kankakee  
I. W. VOIGT  
Kankakee

Honorable Henry Horner, Governor  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Governor:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th relative to your appointment of me as a member of the State Agricultural Conciliatory Committee.

There is no questioning the fact that there are many problems facing our citizenship in these days for which new machinery for solving these questions might well be set up. While it is true, as you state, that it will require a sacrifice on the part of those who accept such appointments as you have tendered me, yet, I realize that it is an honor to be counted among those who unselfishly make those sacrifices necessary in order to be of assistance in this critical hour in the history of our country.

We, of this generation, have inherited from our forefathers, as a result of their years of labor and sacrifice, a goodly heritage, a heritage which I feel it is the duty of this generation to pass on to the next; namely, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I sincerely believe that we should again return to a policy of individual responsibility under adequate governmental protection with the theory that if we save the individual home unit, every institution that is rendering a useful service will automatically be restored to its rightful and only place, that of service to society.

While it does seem strange to me that one who has never had the opportunities of a higher education should be selected to this responsible position to help in putting into effect a new theory of economic relationship, yet, I suspect that those of us who deal primarily with nature on farm and field have more of an opportunity to acquire ideas of justice that are both fundamental and practical than many of those whose lot has fallen in our great centers of population with their attendant, rush and turmoil.

I, therefore, accept the appointment you have tendered, hoping that I shall be worthy of the confidence you have placed in me.

Very truly yours,

Wm. E. Tanner.

WET:LT

January 12, 1934  
RECEIVED  
JAN 13 1934  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR  
*Mr. McLaughlin*



## **DOCUMENT 23 – LETTER REQUESTING A PENSION FOR A VETERAN’S WIDOW FROM LITCHFIELD**

**January 22, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Prior to the Social Security Act which became law on August 14, 1935 few Americans were protected by any form of societal safety net. The threats of unemployment, illness, disability, old age, and death were very real but only a handful had the resources to cushion these blows for any sustained period of time. Policemen, firemen, and school teachers were the most likely to have pension plans prescribed by state law. Breadwinners often worked until they died. In some instances, particularly on farms, family cared for those no longer able to work. Life insurance was not unheard of but most frequently it was administered by fraternal associations and payments mainly were used to pay burial expenses. Public charity took the form of the poorhouse or “outdoor” relief. Private charity was the favored course but resources were limited and mostly exhausted by 1934.

The General Assembly had passed and the governor had signed a bill which provided “for the relief of indigent widows and children of deceased World War veterans” on July 14, 1929. A total of \$101,804 had been appropriated for this purpose. The circumstances of petitioners were to be investigated but in no instance was a case to be awarded more than \$400. This money was long gone in 1934. In his response to this letter the governor’s secretary suggested that Mrs. Huber contact her U.S. congressman.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Mrs. Huber asking Governor Horner to do?

Locate Litchfield on a map.

Which war had John Huber probably served in?

Explain Martha Huber’s circumstances.

DOCUMENT 23 – LETTER REQUESTING A PENSION FOR A VETERAN'S  
WIDOW FROM LITCHFIELD

January 22, 1934

1405 N. Franklin Street  
Litchfield, Illinois  
January 22, 1934.

Govenor Henry Horner,  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Govenor:

I wish to ask you if there is a law providing for a pension for soldiers widows. I read an article in the paper two years ago where there had been a law providing for \$20 for the widow and \$6 per. child per. mo. However I have not been able to find out any more concerning it.

I am a soldiers widow, with 7 children age from 15 to 3 years. My youngest are twins born three weeks after their father was killed when his car was struck by a fast express train as he was returning home from a neighbor after borrowing medicine for a sick horse.

The R.R. company did not allow me any damages, or funeral expenses.

Our living expenses are large and what money we had is almost exhausted.

My husband was disabled during his service and drew at one time for two years a 30% disability and 10% to the time of death. I have been told due to this I am entitled to some pension.

My husbands name and claim no are John E. Huber. C-341769.

If you can not be of any service to me please forward to the right party.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Martha Vallie Huber

(TRANSCRIPTION)

## **DOCUMENT 24 – TELEGRAM CONCERNING VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS OF AMERICA**

**February 2, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Since the spring of 1933 Taylorville and most of Christian County had comprised a war zone with the combatants being the United Mine Workers of America and the breakaway Progressive Mine Workers of America (see also document 19). The National Guard was called up for months on end to occupy Taylorville in particular and thereby prevent pitched gun battles. If someone knocked on a miner's door after dark, interior lights would be extinguished and a firearm acquired before that door was opened. Men had been shot and killed while taking out their garbage.

John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers had worked out an agreement with the Peabody Coal Company whereby United Workers only would work the company's mines in Christian County. They were to be paid a reduced wage of five dollars a day. The Progressive Miners, who demanded local autonomy and a higher wage, were squeezed out and left to subsist on the produce from their backyard gardens.

Although Governor Horner had some sympathies for the Progressive Miners his hands largely were tied. John L. Lewis was able to forge strong ties with the Roosevelt administration and as time passed the Progressive Miners increasingly became influenced by communist interests. These factors made the Progressive Miners political liabilities. In response to this telegram the governor sent a copy to the Illinois attorney general's office.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was the "Committee Womens Auxiliary of the Progressive Miners" asking Governor Horner to do?

Locate Taylorville on a map.

Who were the Progressive Miners and why might city officials have refused their women protection?

Why might this telegram have been sent at 12:59 in the morning on Friday, February 2, 1934?



DOCUMENT 24 – TELEGRAM CONCERNING VIOLENCE COMMITTED  
AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS OF AMERICA

February 2, 1934

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN  
UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1217-A

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

C O P Y

AAB11 58 NL XC VI TAYLORVILLE ILL L

1934 FEB 2 AM 1259

HENRY HORNER  
GOVERNOR SPRINGFIELD ILL

WE THE WOMEN OF TAYLORVILLE AUXILIARY OF THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS OF AMERICA INDIGNANTLY PROTEST THE HURLING OF GAS BOMBS BY UNKNOWN PERSONS INTO A MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD THE NIGHT OF JAN 31 IN PROGRESSIVE MINERS HALL OUR COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS REFUSE PROTECTION STATES ATTORNEY FRANKLY ADMITS INCAPABILITY TO COPE WITH SITUATION WE DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION.

COMMITTEE WOMENS AUXILIARY OF THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

## **DOCUMENT 25 – LETTER CONCERNING A BANK CLOSING IN CHICAGO**

**February 13, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Nationally a general collapse of the banking structure was feared in early 1933. Franklin Roosevelt was sworn into office on March 4, 1933. Beginning March 6 by executive order he closed all of the country's banks for a period of four days. By the terms of the Emergency Banking Act of March 9 they were allowed to reopen beginning March 10 as soon as they could prove that they were solvent. Within three days more than 1,000 had done so. Over March 1933-July 1935 the Reconstruction Finance Corporation loaned over one billion dollars to 6,468 banks from coast to coast. These loans restored lending institutions' abilities to meet their obligations. For the same period the U.S. Treasury Department liquidated another 2,352 banks which could not be made whole by reasonable federal loans. Thus the nation's banking system, a central underpinning of the economy itself, had been saved.

The governor's administrative assistant replied to this inquiry on February 13. He stated that the governor had no jurisdiction in regard to banks and suggested that Marion Suranoric contact the state's auditor of public accounts.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Marion Suranoric asking Governor Horner to do?

Why was Mr. Suranoric willing to settle for forty percent of his bank deposits?

Why did Mr. Suranoric want his money "at once"?

Was Mr. Suranoric making a reasonable request?

DOCUMENT 25 – LETTER CONCERNING A BANK CLOSING IN CHICAGO

February 13, 1934

501 W. 123rd Street

Chicago, Ill.

February 13 - 1934.

Governor Horner

Springfield, Ill.

Your Excelency:~

With hundreds and thousands of money of the poor people like myself tied up in the West Side Bank of this city, crying for bread and justice, why must the bank go into receivership. Why can't the auditor of the state open the bank on 40% basis as thousands sign waiving.

We the people of the State of Illinois elected you as our Govenor, myself and others appeal to you for the sake of the many poor and destitute, won't you kindly see the we get the square deal, the bank to be re-opened and we get

our 40% at once.

Praying to the Almighty and hoping sincerely that you will look into the matter, I beg to remain

Your humble servant

Marion Suranoric



## **DOCUMENT 26 – LETTER REQUESTING FREE GARDEN SEEDS**

**February 16, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Walter McLaughlin, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture, referred this inquiry to the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission. That commission's division of subsistence gardens in turn advised Peter Van Trigt to contact his local county emergency relief committee. That agency could inform him if free garden seeds were available and if they were, whether or not he was eligible to receive them.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture in 1934 through federal subsidies was in the business of distributing free seeds and livestock feed to farmers on an emergency basis. The seeds it distributed however were for cash crops rather than for vegetable gardens.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Peter Van Trigt asking Walter McLaughlin to do?

Locate Ottawa on a map.

Describe Mr. Van Trigt's circumstance.

Was Mr. Van Trigt's request reasonable?

## DOCUMENT 26 – LETTER REQUESTING FREE GARDEN SEEDS

February 16, 1934

Ottawa, Ill. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1934

1820 La Salle St

Mr. Walter M<sup>c</sup> Laughlin

“Director of the State Dept.  
of Agriculture”

Springfield, Ill;

Dear Mr. M<sup>c</sup> Laughlin:-

May I ask your personal advice for  
following:

I have about 10 ½ acres of good land  
on the foot of Catlin’s hill in this City. for the  
last two years the Relief has rented this  
land for Relief Garden. The rental I received  
was not enough to pay my taxes and Special  
Assesments on said land so I must look  
out for something which will give me some  
interest on my investment

May I state that for the last four years  
I am unable to do any work account of injury  
on my left knee may be you recall that I use  
to be Mine Superintendent for a Sand Co. in  
this City and met you several times with  
D<sup>r</sup>. Postina

I have not the money on hand to  
invest for seed to keep land in culivation  
some acres in corn, clover, patotoes and  
Vegetables. have two boys old enough to give  
me a lift and some of my neighbors I am  
sure will help me

Do you think your Department  
could or would furnish me the seed  
needed for above purpose? I am glad  
to return at the end of harvest same  
amount of seed to your Department

At present I am just up against it  
having no income for years. Rent, Gas,  
Light and other Bills have brought me  
down that I am just pennyless at  
present and with 5 children under 16  
years of age You can figure out for your  
self what hardship I am going through

I surely will highly appreciate your  
advice and anything you can do to  
pull me out.

Thanking you in advance for  
your attention and could it be a  
favorable reply. I remain,

Sincerely yours

Peter Van Trigt

(TRANSCRIPTION)

## **DOCUMENT 27 – LETTER CONCERNING LIBRARY SERVICE FOR ILLINOIS FEDERAL TRANSIENT CAMPS**

**February 28, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

As the depression worsened increasing numbers of men and boys took to the roads in efforts to forge existences wherever opportunities presented themselves. According to a survey completed by social workers in January 1933 Illinois was the temporary home for 43,000 transients and only California had more with 49,000. These men and boys were not the usual “bums” who rode the rails or hitchhiked the nation’s roads. Rather they mostly were displaced industrial workers, artisans, laborers, and the like who a short time earlier had been part of society’s mainstay.

The Federal Emergency Relief Commission responded to this phenomenon by establishing camps outside population centers where large numbers of transients gathered. Camps provided food, clothing, shelter, and basic medical services. In return inhabitants were to provide their labor as demand required. For Illinois camps were established outside of Chicago, Rockford, Moline, Danville, Springfield, East St. Louis, and Cairo. For Chicago a camp was put up near Algonquin in McHenry County, just northwest of Chicago. Transient work camps were discontinued in Illinois in November 1935.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What is a “transient”?

Locate Algonquin on a map.

What kind of work would have been performed at the camp at Algonquin?

Why would it have been desirable to have had library service at a transient camp?



DOCUMENT 27 – LETTER CONCERNING LIBRARY SERVICE FOR  
ILLINOIS FEDERAL TRANSIENT CAMPS

February 28, 1934

C6803 50M 12-33 83

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION  
CHICAGO OFFICE  
10 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 7410

RECEIVED

MAR 1 1934

LIBRARY EXTENSION DIVISION.

February 28, 1934

MEMBERS

ROBERT J. DUNHAM OF CHICAGO  
CHAIRMAN

OMAR H. WRIGHT OF BELVIDERE  
VICE CHAIRMAN

GEORGE A. BARR OF JOLIET  
SECRETARY

EDWARD J. BARRETT OF CHICAGO  
CHARLES BOESCHENSTEIN OF EDWARDSVILLE

JOHN C. MARTIN OF SALEM

VICTOR A. OLANDER OF CHICAGO

J. J. RICE OF CHICAGO

JOHN PIERRE ROCHE OF CHICAGO

WILLIAM H. SEXTON OF CHICAGO

WILFRED S. REYNOLDS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FRANK Z. GLICK  
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

RUSSELL L. PETERS  
CHIEF AUDITOR

ROBERT J. MYERS  
CHIEF STATISTICIAN

F. A. DENISTON  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Miss Anna May Price  
Library Extension Division  
State Library  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Miss Price:


Your letter of February 26th addressed to Mr. Riggs who is our Camp Director at Algonquin, Illinois, has been referred to me for reply. The Federal Transient Service in Illinois is now registering and providing shelters for transients at seven points in the state, namely: Chicago, Rockford, Moline, Springfield, Danville, East St. Louis, and Cairo. Library facilities in these transient shelters have been arranged with the local libraries.

It is the intention of the Illinois Service Bureau for Transients to establish work camps outside of the urban centers as an outlet for these registration points. We are just getting under way in the matter of establishing such camps. Our first camp has been established one and one-half miles north of Algonquin, Illinois on the Fox River, and it is at this point that we are now interested in obtaining library facilities. We are negotiating for other work projects which may provide camp sites at various places in the state but we are not in position to arrange for library extension facilities for them at the present time.

Regarding the Civilian Conservation Camps we have no information available here as to their number or location, but I believe the CCC Camp program has already established library facilities.

Our immediate requirements as stated above, would be limited to the Camp at Algonquin, Illinois and an extension of this program is desired as rapidly as additional camps are established.

Very truly yours,



H. O. Bartlett  
Supervisor, Work-Camps

HOB:MBH

**DOCUMENT 28 – LETTER FROM A SCHOOL TEACHER REQUESTING AN  
EXTENSION OF TIME TO PAY AN AUTOMOBILE  
LICENSE FEE**

**April 7, 1934**

**EXPLANATION**

The state at large had 1,384,336 public school students and 46,361 teachers in 1934. The school year consisted of 170 days.

Effingham County had sixty-eight one-room county schools supervised by solitary teachers over the school year 1931/1932. Annual teacher salaries ranged between \$400 and \$1,000 with thirty-eight of the sixty-eight being paid between \$600 and \$700 per annum.

The governor's secretary replied to this letter on April 10. He informed J. W. Crawford that the governor had no jurisdiction in the matter and that the issue was one entirely for the Illinois secretary of state.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was J. W. Crawford asking Governor Horner to do?

Locate Mason on a map.

Why had school teachers not been paid promptly at this time?

Describe J. W. Crawford's lifestyle.

DOCUMENT 28 – LETTER FROM A SCHOOL TEACHER REQUESTING AN  
EXTENSION OF TIME TO PAY AN AUTOMOBILE  
LICENSE FEE

April 7, 1934

MASON ILL.

APRIL 7 1934

Hon. Henry Horner  
Governor of Illinois  
Springfield Ill.

RECEIVED

APR 9 1934

OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR

Dear Sir:

I wrote the secretary of state on March 24 in regard to time extension for securing auto license by those teachers who are not being paid because of failure of the state to fully and promptly pay the amounts anticipated in the planning of school budgets and slow tax collections. The use of an automobile is in many instances a necessity. I am of the opinion that in some places that permission was granted last year. If it appears just and practical to the Governor, I am sure that many of the teachers would be helped much toward passing the interval of their credit existence by a reasonable extension of time for purchase of licenses for their cars.

Please advise promptly so there may be no embarrassment before the traffic court?

Respectfully,

*J. H. Crawford*



## **DOCUMENT 29 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONCERNING THE EXTRADITION OF SAMUEL INSULL**

**April 13, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Samuel Insull had established himself as the head of Commonwealth Edison Company, the Chicago based utilities holding company which produced one tenth of the nation's electricity and which had amassed assets worth over \$2,000,000,000 in 1930. After the stock market crash of 1929 and the subsequent economic shakedown most of Commonwealth Edison's holdings were forced into receivership by 1932. As a result thousands of small investors found their assets frozen. Insull, once a revered or feared utility magnate, became the object of public scorn. He fled to Paris. There he learned that he was to be indicted for fraud back at home. To avoid extradition he journeyed to Greece and then to Turkey.

Turkish authorities returned Insull to Chicago in 1934 to face charges there. After lengthy and costly court proceedings he was found not guilty in all instances. Nearly bankrupt, Insull returned to Paris where he died in 1938.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had the U.S. secretary of state written Governor Horner?

Who was Samuel Insull?

Why was he in Turkey in 1934?

How did things turn out for Mr. Insull?

DOCUMENT 29 – LETTER FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING THE EXTRADITION OF SAMUEL INSULL

April 13, 1934

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



In reply refer to  
Le 251.11-Insull, Samuel/538

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 13, 1934

The Honorable

The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 11, 1934, with which you enclosed your requisition and accompanying documents for the extradition of Samuel Insull from Turkey on the charges of embezzlement and larceny pending in your State.

My information indicates that Insull has already been surrendered by the Turkish Government to the Agents of the United States in extradition proceedings based upon the Federal charges of violation of the bankruptcy laws, fraud by an officer or director of a corporation, and fraudulent use of the mails.

I regret that your requisition was not received in time so that Insull's extradition might also have been requested on the charges against him in your State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Correll Hull*

**DOCUMENT 30 – TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN  
CONCERNING AN AWARD FOR THE CAPTURE OF JOHN  
DILLINGER**

**May 9, 1934**

**EXPLANATION**

John Dillinger was one of the more remarkable gangsters of the depression era. After being released from the Indiana State Prison in the spring of 1933 he and a succession of accomplices proceeded to hold up a series of banks, mainly in Indiana. His travels at this time, however, took him through much of the Midwest. He and his gang variously alluded capture by diligence and luck. Although he was captured on two occasions, Dillinger was able to escape from the Allen County jail in Lima, Ohio on October 23, 1933 and from the Lake County jail at Crown Point, Indiana on March 3, 1934.

While he remained alive and at-large, John Dillinger was elevated to celebrity status. Some considered him to be a dashing modern day Robin Hood while others regarded him as a lawless threat to society. After being named “public enemy number one” by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on June 22, 1934 agents shot and killed him as he was leaving the Biograph movie house in Chicago on July 22. In a proclamation which described Dillinger as “an outlaw, a fugitive from justice and a vicious menace to life and property” the five states named pledged a reward of \$5,000 for any person who apprehended him and then delivered him to a county sheriff in either of the five states.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Governor Horner asking the governors of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota to do?

Why were these five states being asked to participate in this joint venture?

Who was John Dillinger?

What is the equivalent of 5,000 May 9, 1934 dollars today?



DOCUMENT 30 – TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN  
CONCERNING AN AWARD FOR THE CAPTURE OF JOHN  
DILLINGER

May 9, 1934

COPY

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END CABLE LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

POSTAL TELEGRAPH—CABLE CO.

**TELEGRAM**

HON WILLIAM A COMSTOCK  
GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN  
LANSING MICHIGAN

SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS  
MAY 9 1934

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE FOR THE APPREHENSION OF THE  
ESCAPED CRIMINAL JOHN DILLINGER WILL YOU JOIN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN  
OFFERING A JOINT REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE STOP ILLINOIS STANDS READY TO  
OFFER ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY OUR LAW AND IF THE  
STATES OF INDIANA OHIO MICHIGAN AND MINNESOTA WILL JOIN US A TOTAL OF  
FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS WILL BE THE REWARD TO THE PERSON OR PERSONS CAPTURING  
HIM AND TURNING HIM OVER TO A DESIGNATED OFFICER IN EITHER OF OUR STATES  
STOP I AM MAKING THE SAME SUGGESTION TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE OTHER STATES  
STOP IT WILL BE WORTH THIS COMBINED REWARD TO PLACE DILLINGER IN CUSTODY  
STOP SO LONG AS HE IS AT LARGE THE WELFARE AND PEACE OF OUR CITIZENS

COPY

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END CABLE LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

POSTAL TELEGRAPH—CABLE CO.

**TELEGRAM**

- 2 -

ARE MENACED AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER IS THREATENED STOP WHILE  
THIS JOINT OFFER MAY BE UNUSUAL THE CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFY IT STOP I URGE  
YOUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THIS PLAN AND YOUR PROMPT REPLY.

HENRY HORNER  
GOVERNOR

CHG: Executive Office

## **DOCUMENT 31 – TELEGRAM PROTESTING THE OMISSION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM THE NOVEMBER BALLOT**

**October 1, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Chicago had been the birthplace of the American Communist Party in 1919 but its numbers there had dwindled during the twenties and as a consequence New York City was its stronghold at the time of the depression. In the fall of 1931 Chicago had approximately 2,000 registered American Communist Party members. Most members had been born abroad in Russia, Lithuania, Hungary, and Poland. Although their numbers were not large Chicago Communists were able to attract goodly sized crowds when they marched to protest rent evictions, inadequate public relief, and unfair treatment afforded by social service agencies. When the election was held for the U.S. presidency in 1932, statewide Illinois cast some 12,000 votes for William Z. Foster, the American Communist Party candidate.

There is no record of Governor Horner's response to this telegram. This is one of numerous communications he received in this regard. The state's elections commission had ruled that the Communist Party was ineligible because most of the signatures on its nominating petition had been forged.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What were Dr. Ward and Annie Gray asking Governor Horner to do?

Why was a congress "against war and fascism" held in Chicago at the end of September 1934?

How might the Illinois State Election Commission have eliminated the Communist Party from the November 1934 ballot?

Should the Communist Party have been allowed on the November 1934 ballot?

# DOCUMENT 31 – TELEGRAM PROTESTING THE OMISSION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

October 1, 1934

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1270.S

**WESTERN UNION**

CLASS OF SERVICE  
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

W. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT  
H. C. WILKINSON  
VICE PRESIDENT  
J. C. WILKINSON  
VICE PRESIDENT

Received at  
The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

CB10 176 NL CNT 1 PGH AND ALL PCTNS 3 EXTRA  
1/144=CK CHICAGO ILL 30

GOVERNOR HORNER=  
STATE CAPITOL SPRINGFIELD ILL=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT  
FULL-RATE DAY LETTER

24 OCT 1 AM 5 32

THE SECOND UNITED STATES CONGRESS AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM ASSEMBLED IN ASHLAND AUDITORIUM, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 28-30, REPRESENTING POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS OF ALL SHADES, LOCALS OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, CHURCHES, CULTURAL, FRATERNAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTING TOTALLY NEARLY 2,000,000 PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, LEARN THAT THE ILLINOIS STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HAS ARBITRARILY ELIMINATED THE STATE TICKET OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM THE BALLOT OF NOVEMBER 6TH, 1934 ELECTIONS.

IN THIS ACT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, WE SEE AN INTRODUCTION OF FASCIST METHODS BY MEANS OF DEPRIVING THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE TO THE BALLOT BY ELIMINATING A POLITICAL PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS, THE COMMUNIST PARTY.=

END 1

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1270.S

**WESTERN UNION**

CLASS OF SERVICE  
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

W. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT  
H. C. WILKINSON  
VICE PRESIDENT  
J. C. WILKINSON  
VICE PRESIDENT

Received at  
The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

CB10 2/32=  
IT IS AN ACT OF ASSAULT UPON THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, THEREFORE, WE UNCONDITIONALLY DEMAND THE PLACING ON THE BALLOT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.=

DR WARD CHAIRMAN ANNIE GRAY SECRETARY.

MINUTES IN TRANSIT  
FULL-RATE DAY LETTER

24 OCT 1 AM 5 32

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



## **DOCUMENT 32 – MEMORANDUM FROM THE ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION CONCERNING FALL PLOWING**

**November 14, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

The top administrators of the work and rehabilitation division of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission included the administrator, assistant administrator, director of work program, director of work relief, director of rural rehabilitation, director of women's work, director of emergency education, director of drought relief, and director of subsistence gardens.

At the county level emergency relief committees appointed county garden committees composed of a member of the county emergency relief committee and several citizens having an interest in subsistence gardens. These committees nominated county garden supervisors who were approved or disapproved by the state director of subsistence gardens. Paid garden supervisors selected land for cultivation, laid out individual plots, arranged for the plots to be plowed, received and acted upon applications for plots, received and distributed seeds and other supplies, and maintained records of all of their transactions. When sufficient amounts of produce were harvested canning stations were established to preserve vegetables for the winter months. On November 26, 1934 the state director of subsistence gardens reported that canning projects were active in sixty-two counties and that 4,500,000 cans of vegetables were in the pantries of relief families awaiting consumption.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Which actions did this document lay out?

What is a "subsistence garden"?

Considering the numbers of people addressed in this memorandum, how many people were involved in subsistence gardening statewide?

How would excess produce have been stored?

DOCUMENT 32 – MEMORANDUM FROM THE ILLINOIS EMERGENCY  
RELIEF COMMISSION CONCERNING FALL PLOWING

November 14, 1934

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION  
1319 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago

WORK AND REHABILITATION DIVISION

MEMORANDUM NO. 100

November 14, 1934

District Representatives  
County Emergency Relief Committees  
County Work Relief Committees  
County Relief Administrators  
County Garden Committees and Supervisors  
Work Relief Superintendents

Subject: Fall Plowing

1. The Commission's approval has been given for fall plowing for subsistence gardens. This work must be done by work relief. In making assignments, it is suggested that preference be given to those wishing to work to repay drought relief or rural rehabilitation loans.

2. If project applications have not already been submitted for this work, they should be sent in immediately. The county relief authorities are urged to secure the best land possible for these garden sites, as vegetables are very responsive to good soil conditions.

3. In planning for the garden program, an effort should be made to have all the garden plots for a community concentrated in a single area. Allowance should be made for individual plots the same sizes as were used this year, 50 x 100 and 50 x 150.

4. If it is possible to secure manure from local stockyards or other sources at no expense to the Commission, this should be applied before plowing, but, in no case, should the commercial fertilizer remaining from the amount sent to the counties for this year's program be applied this fall. This fertilizer should be held for spring application.

5. Due to the lateness of the season, the counties are urged to take immediate action on this plowing.

ARTHUR P. HOLT, Director  
Subsistence Gardens

## **DOCUMENT 33 – LETTER CONCERNING THE RELIEF PROGRAM OR THE LACK THEREOF IN PITTSFIELD**

**November 26, 1934**

### **EXPLANATION**

Up until November 19, 1934 the hourly minimum wage for the federal government's Emergency Work Relief Program had been thirty cents. After that date it was allowed to float in the various parts of the county. While in some places it dipped to as little as ten cents, in Illinois it remained at thirty for fear of public indignation. By the regulations of the Emergency Work Relief Program unemployed able-bodied men were put to work when funds were made available locally. For November 1934 Illinois as a whole was allocated \$11,557,240 for this purpose. Men worked on public works projects building highways, streets, schools, sewers, playgrounds, levees, and the like.

In his November 27 response to this letter Walter McLaughlin explained that the Illinois Department of Agriculture had nothing to do with relief work and that inquiries would be best directed to the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission at 1319 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had Herbert Vertrees written Walter McLaughlin?

Locate Pittsfield on a map.

What responsibility did the citizens of Pittsfield have for their destitute unemployed?

Why might Herbert Vertrees have written the director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture concerning this matter?



DOCUMENT 33 – LETTER CONCERNING THE RELIEF PROGRAM OR THE  
LACK THEREOF IN PITTSFIELD

November 26, 1934

HERBERT H. VERTREES, Mayor

GUY CARLTON, Clerk

FRANK MAIN, Treasurer

Aldermen  
Pat McGuire  
Walter Hassett  
C. E. Hesley

CITY of PITTSFIELD  
*Pittsfield, Illinois*

Aldermen  
Geo. Peters  
Chas. Sneedon  
Henry Diamond

Nov. 26th, 1934

Hon. Walter W. McLaughlin, Director,  
Director of Agriculture,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:- I am writing you in regard to Local  
Federal Emergency Relief Office here.

I have been receiving numerous complaints from un-  
employed men who feel that they do not get the proper  
sympathetic consideration. They can get a few days work  
each month but it is not enough to provide for thier  
families and to pay their rent. I can not see how any  
man can care for his family by just working a few days  
each month. Even when they do work a few days they have  
to wait nearly a week to get their pay. When the local  
releif office fails them they ask me to help them until  
they can get their money for their work. I am glad to  
help them and I will not let any one of them go hungry as  
long as I have a cent left to give them. This is my home  
City and I know these men and I love them and I certainly  
will do my part to see that these men are treated honor\*  
ably and justly. I am particularly interested in the  
little children who really feel the wrongs most keenly.

There must be something wrong about the methods of  
ad'ministering releif and while I do ~~not~~ understand just  
how the system is managed, I will say that I am not at  
all pleased with the results in this locality.

Yours truly,

*Herbert H. Vertrees*  
Mayor.

## **DOCUMENT 34 – GOVERNOR’S STATEMENT CONCERNING AN ATTACK MADE ON RELIEF WORKERS IN CHICAGO**

**January 29, 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

At the time of this tragedy Henry Arden, age twenty-seven, lived with his mother, Mrs. Ruth Arden, age forty-seven, at their home in the 1700 block of Sedgwick Street in Chicago. Henry had graduated from the University of Chicago in 1928 and from September 1928 through December 1929 he had been employed teaching Spanish at the North Dakota State College in Fargo. He had been terminated due to a nervous breakdown.

Ruth Arden had applied for relief from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission (IERC) in December 1933 and had been receiving payments since that time. Her household’s monthly budget was \$40.84. Part of that she earned herself by framing pictures in her own home for paying customers. Also she had been given work relief assignments at the Cook County Building. Thursday, January 24, Mrs. Arden called Alice Irwin, her case worker, to ask for an additional allotment. A home visit was arranged for the next day.

When Alice Irwin arrived for her appointment she was shot dead. Henry and Ruth Arden, each armed with handguns, next proceeded to the IERC Lincoln Park district offices at 54 West Chicago Avenue. There they climbed the stairs to a second floor open office area. When asked to leave they gunned down relief worker Caroline Wallace and wounded two other employees before turning their pistols on themselves.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

In your own words describe the event this statement reveals.

Why had Governor Horner issued this statement?

Why had this tragedy taken place?

How could it have been prevented?

**DOCUMENT 34 – GOVERNOR’S STATEMENT CONCERNING AN ATTACK  
MADE ON RELIEF WORKERS IN CHICAGO**

January 29, 1935

January 29, 1935

#70f

Statement of Governor Horner, with respect  
to the tragedy of Friday, January 25, 1935.

I have requested and received a report from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission on the recent tragedy in which, during the performance of their duties, Chicago relief workers, Caroline Wallace and Alice Irwin were shot to death and Hazel Dugan and Niels Nielson were seriously wounded, all at the hands of Henry Arden and his mother, who were on relief. The deaths of Mrs. Arden and her son by self inflicted wounds followed the attack on the relief workers.

The facts revealed in this report bring to our attention the acute problems and difficult tasks confronting the men and women who are actively engaged in caring for the needy in our State. Some of these needy persons who, under normal conditions, would support themselves by gainful employment, are undergoing severe emotional strains through long enforced idleness. The tension of those strains is relieved to some extent by our understanding relief workers and by providing work relief, but in some instances all the efforts of our relief workers cannot prevent emotional disturbances. The Ardens were undoubtedly insane.

Having the utmost confidence in the devotion of our relief workers to the problem, I know that they will not permit this tragic occurrence to deter them in their brave efforts to aid the destitute. As shocking as is the occurrence, it shall not discourage any of us, whether public servant or private citizen in our efforts to help those who cannot find employment.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I extend profound sympathy to the relatives and friends of Miss Wallace and Miss Irwin and to Miss Dugan and Mr. Nielson my wishes for a speedy and full recovery. In the members of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission and its many agencies throughout the State responsible for the difficult task facing them, I have the utmost confidence.

The Relief workers throughout the State are entitled to our commendation for their loyal devotion and for the intelligent consideration generally shown by them in ministering to the needs of those in distress during these trying times.



## **DOCUMENT 35 – LETTER CONCERNING THE COLLAPSE OF THE CHICAGO HOUSING MARKET**

**February 2, 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) was established by Congress on June 28, 1934. Its purpose was to insure mortgages taken out to finance home repairs and new home construction. Over 1934-1940 some 2,300,000 home repair loans totaling \$945,000,000 were insured by the FHA. Over the same period this agency insured 554,000 new home construction loans totaling \$2,300,000,000. These figures represented a real shot in the arm for a depressed economy.

The purpose of the Building Recovery Committee of Chicago was to help re-employ workers in the building trades. The governor's administrative assistant made a cordial reply to this letter on February 5. The Recovery Committee was informed that the governor had every sympathy for their cause and that presently there were several bills before the General Assembly designed to relieve defaulted property from penalties and to extend the time allowed for paying back taxes. The governor was supporting all of these measures with the full force of this office.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was the Building Recovery Committee of Chicago asking Governor Horner to do?

What was the purpose of the Building Recovery Committee of Chicago?

Name several of the building trades.

Describe the Chicago housing market in February 1935.

DOCUMENT 35 – LETTER CONCERNING THE COLLAPSE OF THE  
CHICAGO HOUSING MARKET

February 2, 1935

CO-OPERATING WITH THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Officers:  
F. J. LAPIN  
Chairman & Manager  
ERNEST A. SCHMIDT  
Vice Chairman  
A. W. ARNEMAN  
Secretary  
MELVIN A. NELSON  
Treasurer

BUILDING RECOVERY COMMITTEE  
OF CHICAGO

3226 LINCOLN AVENUE  
PHONE WELLINGTON 0557

CHICAGO, ILL.

Directors:  
N. B. BUCKLEY  
ALEX. J. DRUECKER  
JAMES W. FETTES  
J. J. FLEISCHMANN  
J. T. FOLEY  
O. S. JACOBSEN  
WM. E. STAUBER

February 2, 1935

RECEIVED

FEB 4 1935

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

Hon. Henry Horner, Governor,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

This group was organized to further the efforts of the Federal Housing Administration for recovery through modernization and building of homes. In connection with these efforts, canvassers have visited thousands of homes trying to interest the owners in this campaign.

This experience has demonstrated to us that at least seventy five per cent of all Chicago properties are so involved in either defaulted taxes or mortgages that the owners cannot take advantage of the National Housing Act.

In a great many cases an extension of mortgage could be secured providing some definite arrangement could be made on defaulted taxes. The mortgagee would go along if the property were improved or at least repaired and some definite arrangement entered into whereby taxes could be liquidated.

We believe that material aid could be rendered the Federal Housing campaign by devising at this time a means of monthly payments on unpaid taxes and we wish that in some way you may be able to influence some such Regulation.

Respectfully yours,  
Building Recovery Committee.

By: 

## **DOCUMENT 36 – LETTER COMPLAINING OF UNFAIR TREATMENT UNDER A FEED AND SEED LOAN PROGRAM**

**February 22, 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

Since 1931 the federal government had appropriated funds to supply destitute farmers loans of feed to nourish their livestock and seed to plant cash crops. The director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture responded to Mr. Birchler's letter on February 26. He explained that although the federal loan program for this purpose had been allowed to expire, that Congress had passed an extension which presently was awaiting the president's signature. The new legislation had been passed on an emergency basis so as to provide for spring planting.

Concluding, Director McLaughlin pointed out that this was a federal and not a state program, and that although state officials were cooperating with federal authorities as closely as possible, federal rules and regulations had to be followed.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Alex Birchler asking Governor Horner to do?

Locate Coulterville on a map.

What was the inequity Mr. Birchler was addressing?

Was the government always fair in its relief efforts?



DOCUMENT 36 – LETTER COMPLAINING OF UNFAIR TREATMENT  
UNDER A FEED AND SEED LOAN PROGRAM

February 22, 1935

Governor H.E. Horner  
Springfield, Ill.  
Dear Governor:-

Coulterville, Ill. 2/22/35.

Since my letter of Jan. 7th to you (which you did not answer) in regard to the feed loans; I succeeded in getting a feed loan for the month of Jan, but have been told that is the last of the feed loans for this county.

I would calculate from the inquiries that I have been receiving, about why we cannot get feed and seed loans in this county, that there must be at least 50 farmers in the county needing and wanting the loans, some have went to the Percy office and been sent away cold with the information that there is no such thing as a feed and seed loan, others have been disgusted with the reports that they brought back and did not go; Several requests have come to me asking me to write you asking why we cannot receive the same benefits from the Rehabilitation Act as the Farmers of adjoining counties are.

Governor We are wondering if you are governor of all the counties of the State or only a part of them, and why you do not see that your Constituents do ~~not~~ get the same treatment in all counties

If you cannot have the employees of the Randolph county office give us farmers the benefits of the Rehabilitation Act as they are in other counties then we ask and request that you send a state investigator down here to see what the trouble is.

Seeding time is here and several of us are badly in need of both feed and seed; This letter is in behalf of several farmers of this county; Please answer and take some action.

Yours Truly,

*Alex Birchler*  
*Coulterville*  
*Ill*

RECEIVED  
FEB 23 1935  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

## **DOCUMENT 37 – LETTER CONCERNING THE DEPRESSED LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY**

**March 5, 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

This letter was one of several communications Governor Horner received at this time from Chicago livestock commission merchants. These merchants brokered animal purchases between farmers and meat packers. To support their enterprise the merchants took a commission or a percentage of the price that the packers paid for the livestock. Farmers had long resented the fees charged by those who acted as middlemen. When the bureau of animal industry, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, issued regulation docket number 402, livestock commission merchants were incensed. Their legal commission rates had been cut between twenty and twenty-five percent. This bad news came at a time when these merchants already were suffering for a variety of other reasons.

Governor Horner responded to this letter on March 11. He told Mr. Quinn that he had written Henry Wallace, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pointing out the plight of Chicago livestock commission merchants and urging reconsideration.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had J. E. Quinn written Governor Horner?

What was a livestock commission merchant?

Why might farmers have resented livestock commission merchants?

Why should the federal government have determined the rate at which livestock commission merchants were compensated?

DOCUMENT 37 – LETTER CONCERNING THE DEPRESSED LIVESTOCK  
INDUSTRY

March 5, 1935

PHONE  
YARDS 0588



RECEIVED

MAR 6 1935

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

UNION STOCK YARDS  
CHICAGO, ILL.

March 5, 1935.

Governor Henry Horner,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Governor:

You, no doubt, have received quite a few messages from out here, and they will bring this case before you. This fight is in our home state, and naturally the Democrats and others look for you to give them a little assistance. Our receipts have been reduced about 35% with the drouth and the curtailment of production, - added to the decrease in commission of 20 to 25%, we had two strikes here and one big fire, - the largest one since the Chicago fire, and this business is about on its last legs.

We have reduced our help about 40 to 50%, and will have to reduce it more, and pay starvation wages, which I know you are against. And if we had an election tomorrow, I would have a hard time getting ten votes for the National Democratic ticket.

Trusting you are enjoying good health, and thanking you for past favors, I am

Sincerely your friend,

JEQ M

*J. E. Quinn*



## **DOCUMENT 38 – LETTER CONCERNING STATE ACQUISITIONS OF GREENE COUNTY ORCHARDS**

**March 11, 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (RRC) of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration on March 8, 1935 rejected the “Supervised Agricultural Community Project” proposed by the Greene County Emergency Relief Committee. The proposal had requested \$245,179.11 to purchase apple orchard and other farm lands, purchase equipment and livestock, and provide for the first year’s operating expenses. The plan was to take one hundred Greene County relief recipients and put them to work growing apples for wholesale markets. Salaried supervisors were to oversee operations which were to be administered by the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. It was estimated that after one year in operation losses would total \$2,093 but thereafter the community would be self-supporting. Once implemented the plan was projected to save the Greene County relief organization nearly \$40,000 a year.

The RRC had rejected the proposal because there was no guaranteed market for the apples and the corporation had no desire to be in the apple business anyway. Mr. Crabtree’s letter served to reassure RRC officials.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was C. P. Crabtree asking Governor Horner to do?

Locate Hillview on a map.

How did Mr. Crabtree think that Greene County relief recipients could have been more usefully employed?

Would it have been fair for the federal government to have competed with Greene County apple growers?

DOCUMENT 38 – LETTER CONCERNING STATE ACQUISITIONS OF  
GREENE COUNTY ORCHARDS

March 11, 1935

Hillview Ill.

March. 11. 1935

Gov. Henry Horner;-

Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I am writing you  
in regard to an orchard Project  
which is brewing in our locality  
here in Greene Co. Patterson Town  
ship.

As I understand this, this  
Project is to be financed (these  
orchards bought or leased) by Gov  
ernment money, then relief or  
unemployed to work them.  
We apple growers in this locality  
who are trying to stay on top  
during these times, feel it very

unjust to use tax money and  
start the Gov't. in a competitive  
business right here by our side  
in reclaiming some old orchards  
that should be cut down, some  
out of Bankruptcy, etc.

This movement is not fair to we  
Farmers and we do know this same  
money would be wisely spent on  
our country roads.

You will find upon investi-  
gation that this Project has  
materialized by a few local men  
seeking soft Gov't. jobs. If needs  
be I can send you a petition of  
this whole community against this  
orchard project.

Trusting you'll do your untmost  
to thwart such a movement or at  
once forward to this appeal to the  
proper authority and Thanking you

we are           Very Respectfully  
Mr C. P. Crabtree

## **DOCUMENT 39 – LETTER CONCERNING ANTICIPATED STATE AID FOR SCHOOLS**

**April 2, 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Herrin Township High School District suffered a total deficit of \$65,374 as of March 22, 1935. For the period March 22-September 1, 1935 anticipated revenues were estimated not to exceed \$51,026. The governor's administrative assistant responded to Mr. Eckert's letter on April 3. He wrote that legislation was being written to provide for an education commission to investigate means by which school districts could meet their obligations. He could not, however, as of April 3 provide an estimate of the amount of state aid the Herrin district could anticipate.

Upon the recommendation of the Illinois Education Commission a law was approved on November 22, 1935 which provided a working cash fund for public schools. Local boards of education with the consent of city councils could issue twenty-year revenue bonds with an annual interest rate of four percent. The school district's voters were not required to approve these bond issuances.

The state provided \$13,000,000 to aid public schools statewide in 1935.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Eugene C. Eckert asking Alexander Wilson to provide?

Locate Herrin on a map.

In what circumstance did the Herrin Township High School find itself in 1935?

What caused that circumstance?



DOCUMENT 39 – LETTER CONCERNING ANTICIPATED STATE AID FOR  
SCHOOLS

April 2, 1935

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

**Herrin Township High School**

EUGENE C. ECKERT, PRINCIPAL

HERRIN, ILL.

4-2-35

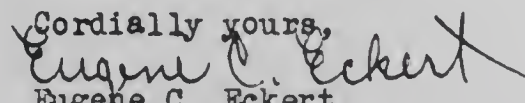
Mr. Alexander Wilson  
Secretary to the Governor  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As you know, school legislation is one of the important topics before the legislature at this time. I am wondering if you can inform me as to what we might reasonably expect this session of the legislature to do in the way of aiding high schools. I am enclosing a financial statement of the Herrin Township High School, which shows the amount of money we will owe by the close of this school year, June 1, 1935; and a number of statements showing what we might possibly receive in revenue between now and September 1, or the opening of the next school year.

Assessments in our school district have declined more than 50% since 1929, and last year the percentage of tax collections was only 52% of the levy. There is no doubt that in Southern Illinois the property tax system has broken down. I believe that the state administration realized this some time ago when they dropped it as far as the State was concerned and switched over to the sales tax for state purposes.

We do not expect to employ our teachers for next year until we have some assurance that there will be state aid for high schools. Our Board is taking the position that they can not go further into debt. As we are approaching the time of year when teachers are usually placed under contract for the next school year, we would appreciate any information which would help us to know whether we should plan for another school year or not. Any information which you or Governor Horner might possibly have at this time will certainly be appreciated.

Cordially yours,  
  
Eugene C. Eckert

ECE/AZ

## **DOCUMENT 40 – ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION MONTHLY STATISTICS**

**April 1935**

### **EXPLANATION**

For the years 1933-1935 the federal government made grants to the state through the Federal Emergency Relief Commission or the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission. By 1935 the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission (IERC) was a coterminous agency which acted on behalf of the U.S. government when it expended federal dollars and which served the state when spending Illinois revenue. The state's population had totaled 7,630,654 when it had been counted in 1930.

For the year ending June 30, 1935 the average monthly relief grant was \$30.66. For Cook County the amount was \$38.66 while for downstate it was \$23.34. The federal government allocated Illinois \$100,096,928 for relief purposes for calendar year 1935. The state appropriated nearly \$36,000,000 for the same purpose for the same period. Harry Hopkins, the national federal relief administrator, had held up payments in May 1935 until the General Assembly passed an additional one cent sales tax which allowed Illinois to meet its quota of \$3,000,000 a month. The U.S. government withdrew from the IERC at the beginning of 1936 when the newly established Works Progress Administration began providing relief for the unemployed who were able to work. The unemployed who were not able to work became the responsibility of state and local authorities at that point.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was "work relief"

What were "resident non-families"?

Why were comparatively few women employed on work relief?

Which kinds of projects were the unemployed put to work doing?

# DOCUMENT 40 – ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION MONTHLY STATISTICS

April 1935

## ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION (FEDERAL) MONTHLY REPORT OF WORK RELIEF OPERATIONS A P R I L 1 9 3 5

The columns on the following sheets are headed with Roman Numerals corresponding to the numerals opposite the paragraphs below:

	SUMMARY (TOTALS)
I Number of resident families on relief during month .....	308,544
II Number of resident non-families on relief during month .....	18,183
III Total number of resident relief cases during month .....	326,727
IV Estimated number of resident relief cases having an employable member .....	264,588
V Total accumulated number of individuals (one to a case) certified as eligible to work to close of month ....	159,393
VI Total number of different individuals employed on Work Relief during month .....	123,427
VII Total number of women employed on Work Relief during month .....	8,650
VIII Total number of men employed on Work Relief during month .....	114,777
IX Number of resident families represented in Item VI .....	122,936
X Wages paid for Work Relief during month (regular relief) .....	\$4,054,090.66
XI Wages paid for Work Relief during month (non-relief) .....	267,907.60
XII Total wages paid for all Work Relief during month .....	\$4,321,998.26
XIII Percent total non-relief wages of total relief wages .....	6.2%
XIV Total number of projects operated in counties during month .....	4,312
XV Total number of time-lost accidents, to relief workers during month .....	209



## **DOCUMENT 41 – LETTER REQUESTING DROUGHT RELIEF FOR FAYETTE COUNTY**

**August 1, 1936**

### **EXPLANATION**

William McLaughlin, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, replied to this letter on August 8. He explained that the state had no control over the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) but that he enjoyed a good working relationship with it. McLaughlin promised to meet with the state's WPA supervisor in an attempt to interest him in Roy Smith's idea.

Drought and insect infestation were significant problems for a number of Illinois counties especially in 1934 and 1936. Federal assistance usually came in the form of loans of seeds to plant crops or feed to nourish livestock. While these loans usually had low dollar values, few were ever repaid. After January 1, 1936 the WPA replaced the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission as the agency which provided work relief.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Roy C. Smith asking Governor Horner to do?

Locate Vandalia on a map.

What had caused Fayette County farmers economic distress?

Why had Roy Smith written as the "Chairman of the Board of Supervisors"?

DOCUMENT 41 - LETTER REQUESTING DROUGHT RELIEF FOR FAYETTE  
COUNTY

August 1, 1936

Board of Supervisors,  
Fayette County, Illinois.  
Vandalia, Ill.

RECEIVED

August 1, 1936.

AUG 3 - 1936

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

Hon. Henry Horner,  
Springfield, Ill.

My Dear Governor:

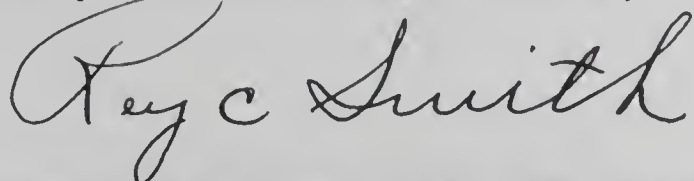
I have just talked to Mr. W. M. Farley, director of this area of the I.E.R.C., calling his attention to the serious situation in this county as a result of the prolonged drouth, and I am writing to ask you if it would be possible for you to direct him to make an investigation of this situation and suggest a remedy.

Drouth and other conditions have cut the wheat, oats and hay crops to almost nothing in a great many cases and the corn is now at a stage that it must be placed in silo or something done to save it, with no rain yet in sight.

Would it be possible in this emergency to use WPA labor and distressed farmers on a project to build temporary silos and help to harvest this corn crop and save it.

If anything can be done it must be done very soon and I believe it could best be done through the WPA organization, if that could be liberalized temporarily to include these distressed farmers who are not already on relief or on the WPA rolls.

Very respectfully yours,



Chairman of the Board of Supervisors  
Fayette County, Illinois.

## **DOCUMENT 42 – RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL AND RADIO WORKERS OF AMERICA PROTESTING THE TREATMENT OF EDWARD PARKER**

**July 10, 1937**

### **EXPLANATION**

Edward Parker of Staunton, Illinois was an organizer for the Illinois Workers Alliance (IWA) which was affiliated with the Workers Alliance of America (WAA). Early in its history the WAA led the unemployed and relief workers in protest demonstrations. Late in the 1930s WAA leaders more often were found lobbying on behalf of their members in state legislatures and in Washington, D.C.

Parker was arrested in Cairo on April 9 after he and several hundred unemployed men and relief workers had occupied the local relief office for over eight hours. He was charged with inciting a riot and assaulting and attempting to kill several police officers. Tensions were particularly high due to the fact that two months earlier relief workers had been employed building up the levee holding back the Ohio River which had been at flood stage. Men had worked long and hard hours and for that had been promised good cash wages. They had not yet been paid because of a lack of funds available and poor records keeping at the time of the crisis. Added to that Cairo in 1937 was a strictly segregated town of 15,000 divided evenly between whites and blacks. A majority of the unemployed were black.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Why had workers from New Kensington, Pennsylvania put forward this resolution?

Locate Cairo on a map.

What had happened in Cairo which had resulted in Ed Parker's arrest?

What did an Ohio River flood have to do with the situation?



DOCUMENT 42 – RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL AND RADIO  
WORKERS OF AMERICA PROTESTING THE  
TREATMENT OF EDWARD PARKER

July 10, 1937

UNITED ELECTRICAL & RADIO WORKERS of AMERICA

G.E. LOCAL NO. 602

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.  
910 Stanton Avenue

COPY

RECEIVED

JUL 14 1937

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

R E S O L U T I O N

We, the General Electric Local 602, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, New Kensington, Pa., wishing to protest against the vicious treatment accorded Ed Parker, Workers' Alliance organizer in Illinois, by relief authorities and the courts of Cairo, Illinois, submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, wishing to call to the attention of the Mayor, the Courts, the Governor, and the Citizens of Cairo, that Ed Parker is guilty of only one offense -- the offense of leading his fellow workers in an effort to gain a decent standard of living in the richest country in the world; and,

WHEREAS, these workers had worked day and night, in an effort to save the city of Cairo from the rising flood waters of the Ohio River, enduring long hours of back-breaking toil building the levee for a promised wage of 50 cents an hour, which we understand has since been reduced to 31 cents an hour; and,

WHEREAS, when men unemployed or on relief, through no fault of their own, work hours to save their city, and when these same men find that the city repays them by cutting off all relief, delaying pay-checks for months, they have only one recourse; in a united fashion, they must demand their rights -- the right to receive well-earned pay to keep their children from starving, their homes from being wrecked; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: that General Electric Local 602, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, New Kensington, Pa., insist that the privileges of our democracy be preserved and Ed Parker freed.

APPROVED:

This 10 day of July, 1937, at the regular membership meeting of Local 602, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, New Kensington, Pa.

Andrew Panegiek  
PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Harry Buffington  
SECRETARY

**DOCUMENT 43 – TELEGRAM TO THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING A CHAMPAIGN MAN CONDEMNED TO  
DEATH IN SPAIN**

**September 3, 1937**

**EXPLANATION**

Harold E. Dahl (1909-1956) was one of some 2,800 Americans who had volunteered to defend the democratically elected Spanish Republican government against the insurgent Nationalists led by General Francisco Franco. The Nationalists were aided by the Germans and by the Italians, particularly in terms of air support.

Of the Americans who served some were committed to the Republican cause, some were after adventure, while others were in it for the money. Dahl fit into the second and third categories. His salary was \$1,500 a month with a bonus of \$1,000 for each enemy aircraft he destroyed. Harold Dahl had been credited with up to five kills. He himself was forced down and captured in 1937. Franco spared him execution due to appeals from the U.S. State Department and his wife and mother. Dahl was released from imprisonment early in 1940. His colorful life ended on February 14, 1956 when the DC-3 he was piloting crashed into the Alaskan bush.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Governor Horner asking the U.S. secretary of state to do?

Locate Champaign on a map.

Who were “Spanish Insurgents” in 1937?

Why had Harold Dahl been in Spain at this time?

DOCUMENT 43 – TELEGRAM TO THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING A CHAMPAIGN MAN CONDEMNED TO  
DEATH IN SPAIN

September 3, 1937

WESTERN UNION  
SPECIAL

Form 1512

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NUMBER

SHEET

LETTER

Dated

SEPTEMBER 3 1937

To

THE HONORABLE  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON D C

MRS IDA DAHL A RESIDENT OF CHAMPAIGN ILLINOIS HAS APPEALED TO  
ME TO PREVENT THE EXECUTION OF HER SON HAROLD E DAHL AMERICAN  
AVIATOR CAPTURED AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN SPAIN BY SPANISH  
INSURGENTS STOP THE ONLY FACTS OF THE CASE THAT HAVE COME  
TO ME ARE THROUGH THE PRESS STOP MRS DAHL IS AN ESTIMABLE  
RESIDENT OF ILLINOIS AND I AM ANXIOUS TO HELP HER SON TO THE  
VERY LIMIT OF MY CAPACITY STOP I EARNESTLY URGE INVESTIGATION  
BY YOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE SENTENCE AND THAT YOU EMPLOY EVERY  
POSSIBLE MEANS TO AVERT THE EXECUTION OF THIS AMERICAN BOY

HENRY HORNER

GOVERNOR



## **DOCUMENT 44 – LETTER CONCERNING RACE RELATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

**October 23, 1937**

### **EXPLANATION**

The University of Illinois enrolled approximately 120 black students in the fall of 1937. A group of around forty students, half white and half black, were attempting to end discrimination at area Champaign-Urbana restaurants. Mixed groups of these activists showed up at eating establishments and requested seating. On occasion restaurateurs adulterated the food served in order to discourage this behavior. In one instance a group of these students took a sample of contaminated food to the university health officer for examination. He found that white pepper had been added to a cheese sandwich and made a complaint to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

That agency turned the matter over to the Illinois Department of Agriculture which in turn delegated it to its division of foods and dairies. Inspector James Burke was sent to Champaign-Urbana to investigate. After associating himself with several of the activists he too was served a cheese sandwich saturated with white pepper at an area restaurant. Subsequently Burke identified himself as a food inspector and confronted the manager. The manager agreed immediately to cease adulterating food. In Burke's report to his superiors he stated that the word had gotten around regarding Department of Agriculture vigilance in relation to food service and that he anticipated no future incidents in Champaign-Urbana.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Marvin Eisner planning to have James Burke do?

Locate Champaign and Urbana on a map.

Which university is located at Champaign-Urbana?

Describe the discrimination taking place there in 1937.

DOCUMENT 44 – LETTER CONCERNING RACE RELATIONS AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

October 23, 1937

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO DIVISION OF FOODS AND DAIRIES  
CHICAGO, ILL.

J. H. LLOYD  
DIRECTOR  
B. W. DEBORD  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HENRY HORNER, GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DIVISION OF FOODS AND DAIRIES  
228 SO. WABASH AVENUE  
HARRISON 6672  
CHICAGO

EDWARD F. GERRITY  
SUPERINTENDENT

October 23, 1937

Hon. J. H. Lloyd, Assistant Director  
Department of Agriculture  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

We received your letter and the copies of letters from Dr. Beard regarding the adulteration of food products served to colored patrons at various lunchrooms in Champaign and Urbana.

I have made arrangements to have one of our very good inspectors go to Champaign at once. This particular inspector was picked for his ability and the fact that he is the youngest looking man on our force and can easily pose as a student.

Our plan is to have him call on Dr. Beard and make arrangements to secure a couple of colored students to assist him. These colored students can enter the lunchroom slightly ahead of our inspector who, by the way, has a brother in the University at the present time. They may also be accompanied by another student. Our inspector is to take a seat close to the colored patrons and at the time of serving, if any food is contaminated, he can step up and take a sample. This will have to be done very carefully, because as soon as it is known our investigation is under way, the practice would naturally immediately cease.

The Inspector we are sending is James Burke. As soon as we have made any progress in this case, we shall let you know.

Very truly yours,

*Martin Eisner*

Assistant Superintendent  
DIVISION OF FOODS AND DAIRIES

MH

## **DOCUMENT 45 – ILLINOIS WAGES OF HIRED FARM LABOR, 1924-1937**

**December 13, 1937**

### **EXPLANATION**

Although an abundance of farm laborers existed after the onset of the Great Depression, the year 1937 experienced a shortage. Accordingly wages had increased. Industrial employment in cities generally was preferable to farm labor. Wages were better, hours were shorter, and work was less seasonable. Especially in the central and northern parts of the state farm equipment increasingly became relied upon for its labor saving qualities. Farm laborers frequently shared living arrangements with their employers and consequently their characters as well as their physical fitness were taken into consideration when hiring decisions were made.

Many farmers came to resent the Works Progress Administration. Work relief programs in cities and towns continued unabated while there was a real need for labor on farms during critical seasons (see document 41).

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Which year and which month of that year was the worst for a farm laborer in terms of wages for the period considered?

According to this report why was there an excess farm labor supply over 1930-1934?

Usually where would a hired farm laborer have lived?

Describe Illinois farm conditions in 1937.



DOCUMENT 45 - ILLINOIS WAGES OF HIRED FARM LABOR, 1924-1937

December 13, 1937

ILLINOIS WAGES OF HIRED FARM LABOR, 1924-1937									
Year and month	Rate Per Month With board	Rate Per Month Without board	Rate Per Day With board	Rate Per Day Without board	Percent of Normal Supply	Demand	Expressed as percentage of demand		
1924									
January	\$38.00	\$50.00	\$2.30	\$3.10	--	--	--		
April	42.00	56.00	2.35	3.10	85	93	91		
July	42.00	55.00	2.35	3.00	95	94	101		
October	40.00	53.00	2.35	3.10	94	92	102		
1925									
January	38.00	52.00	2.15	2.83	--	--	--		
April	43.00	56.00	2.35	3.10	95	95	100		
July	43.00	56.00	2.40	3.10	99	94	105		
October	42.00	55.00	2.35	3.05	96	93	103		
1926									
January	39.00	53.00	2.20	2.80	--	--	--		
April	42.00	54.00	2.15	2.75	97	93	104		
July	45.00	56.00	2.35	3.00	95	94	101		
October	42.00	55.00	2.35	3.05	95	93	102		
1927									
January	43.75	55.00	2.40	3.00	--	--	--		
April	43.00	55.00	2.15	2.80	96	92	104		
July	44.00	56.00	2.30	2.90	95	89	107		
October	42.50	55.00	2.25	2.95	96	81	119		
1928									
January	40.50	53.00	2.20	2.80	--	--	--		
April	42.00	54.00	2.10	2.70	101	88	115		
July	42.75	53.50	2.25	2.85	98	87	113		
October	43.25	55.00	2.30	2.95	96	88	109		
1929									
January	41.00	53.25	2.25	2.90	--	--	--		
April	43.00	55.00	2.20	2.75	97	91	107		
July	43.25	56.00	2.30	2.90	96	92	104		
October	43.00	55.25	2.40	2.90	95	88	108		
1930									
January	40.00	52.00	2.10	2.65	99	87	114		
April	41.00	52.50	2.15	2.70	101	86	117		
July	39.50	50.00	2.05	2.50	109	81	135		
October	38.00	49.25	1.90	2.45	109	74	147		
1931									
January	33.00	45.00	1.65	2.15	113	74	153		
April	32.00	43.50	1.60	2.10	112	76	147		
July	32.00	43.00	1.60	2.10	111	79	141		
October	30.25	40.25	1.50	1.90	116	67	173		
1932									
January	25.75	35.25	1.25	1.65	122	63	194		
April	24.00	33.00	1.20	1.55	126	68	185		
July	22.25	30.25	1.05	1.40	125	65	192		
October	21.25	29.50	1.05	1.30	126	60	210		
(OVER)									

ILLINOIS WAGES OF HIRED FARM LABOR, 1924-1937									
Year and month	Rate Per Month With board	Rate Per Month Without board	Rate Per Day With board	Rate Per Day Without board	Percent of Normal Supply	Demand	Expressed as percentage of demand		
1933									
January	\$18.75	\$26.75	\$.95	\$1.20	128	59	217		
April	17.50	24.75	.90	1.15	127	64	198		
July	18.00	25.25	.95	1.25	121	71	170		
October	18.75	26.25	1.00	1.35	118	64	184		
1934									
January	17.50	25.75	.95	1.30	116	62	187		
April	21.00	29.00	1.05	1.35	115	69	167		
July	21.00	29.00	1.10	1.40	111	68	163		
October	21.25	29.00	1.15	1.45	108	72	150		
1935									
January	19.50	29.00	1.05	1.40	108	66	164		
April	24.00	33.00	1.15	1.55	102	78	131		
July	25.00	34.25	1.25	1.60	97	85	114		
October	25.25	34.25	1.35	1.75	95	84	113		
1936									
January	23.25	32.75	1.25	1.65	98	80	122		
April	27.00	36.50	1.30	1.70	92	87	106		
July	28.50	37.75	1.50	1.90	88	88	100		
October	28.50	37.75	1.50	1.95	85	83	102		
1937									
January	26.00	36.25	1.40	1.85	91	83	110		
April	31.50	41.25	1.55	1.95	88	89	99		
July	32.75	42.25	1.70	2.20	82	92	89		

Illinois farm wages on April 1, 1937 averaged higher than for the five preceding years and are nearly up to the 1931 wage levels. Farm wages reported on April 1, 1937 with April 1, 1936 and 1931 shown in parentheses follow: Rate per month with board - \$31.50 (\$27.00) (\$32.00). Rate per month without board - \$21.25 (\$36.50) (\$43.50). Rate per day with board - \$1.55 (\$1.30) (\$1.60). Rate per day without board \$1.95 (\$1.70) (\$2.10).

According to records established from quarterly inquiries from our crop correspondents, the demand for farm labor at 89 percent of normal compares with the supply at 88 percent of normal. The demand for farm labor is at the highest figure since July 1929. The April 1, 1937 report shows demand in excess of the supply of farm labor for the first time since April 1924. The supply and demand for farm labor was fairly well balanced during the first half of the 1924 to 1929 period with demand declining somewhat and in less favorable balance with supply during the latter half of this period. The quarterly reports for the most part during the following five years, 1930 through 1934, reflect an unusually adverse employment situation for farm labor due to the drastic drop in demand and a marked increase in supply as members of farm families returned from industrial centers.

A. J. Surratt, Sr. Agricultural Statistician  
Illinois and U. S. Department of Agriculture,  
Springfield, Illinois.

## **DOCUMENT 46 – TELEGRAM FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONCERNING POTENTIAL HARM TO GERMAN PERSONS AND INTERESTS**

**November 12, 1938**

### **EXPLANATION**

The British and French signed the Munich Pact at the end of September 1938. It allowed Germany to seize the Sudetenland, the German-speaking portion of Czechoslovakia. Hitler accomplished this on October 3. Kristallnacht, the night of the broken glass, took place over November 9-10. German authorities encouraged local citizens to vandalize Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland. Nearly one hundred Jews were killed over the course of those two evenings. The world was shocked by this government sanctioned brutality. Shortly thereafter Nazi authorities began mass deportations of Jews to concentration camps.

The U.S ambassador to Germany was recalled for consultation on November 14. Four days later the German ambassador to the U.S. was brought home. Germany invaded all of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939 and then Poland on September 1. England and France declared war on Germany on September 3 in reaction to the invasion of Poland. The governor's secretary referred this communication to Chicago authorities.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was the U.S. secretary of state asking the Illinois governor to do?

What were the "extraordinary conditions existing in Germany"?

Why did Cordell Hull want his telegram "treated as confidential"?

What was Governor Horner's ethnic background?



DOCUMENT 46 – TELEGRAM FROM THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
CONCERNING POTENTIAL HARM TO GERMAN  
PERSONS AND INTERESTS

November 12, 1938

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1220-8

**CLASS OF SERVICE**  
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

**WESTERN  
UNION** (45)

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

**SIGNS**  
DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

1938 NOV 12 PM 7 49

AAK125 109 USGOVT=SD WASHINGTON DC 12 NLT=

THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS=

SPRINGFIELD ILL=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

ON ACCOUNT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONDITIONS EXISTING IN GERMANY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF REACTION HERE AGAINST GERMAN OFFICIALS AND GERMAN PROPERTY I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IT IS ADVISABLE THAT YOU ASK LOCAL OFFICIALS TO OBSERVE AN INCREASED DEGREE OF VIGILANCE IN AFFORDING PROTECTION TO GERMAN CONSULAR AND OTHER OFFICERS AND GERMAN PROPERTY IN YOUR STATE STEPS LOOKING TO PROTECTION SHOULD INCLUDE CONFERENCES BETWEEN LOCAL OFFICIALS AND GERMAN OFFICIALS WITH RESPECT TO THE NEED OF THE LATTER FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION AND WITH A VIEW TO ASCERTAINING THEIR WISHES IN THE PREMISES GERMAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE STATIONED AT CHICAGO MAY I ASK THAT THIS TELEGRAM BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL=

CORDELL HULL SECRETARY OF STATE.



## **DOCUMENT 47 – NEWS RELEASE FROM THE STATE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION COMMITTEE**

**1938**

### **EXPLANATION**

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was a New Deal program which was established on May 11, 1935. At that time approximately eleven percent of the nation's farms were supplied with electricity. In an effort to improve the rural living standard and to slow the exodus of farmers to cities the Roosevelt administration devised the REA. Its purpose was to make low interest loans to farm cooperatives which were in the business of building and operating power plants and power lines in rural areas not otherwise served. Cooperatives often served those areas which privately-owned utility companies chose not to serve due to low population density. Electricity brought comfort and convenience to the farm and over time led to the automation of a variety of operations. It has been estimated that by 1960 ninety-seven percent of America's farms had electricity.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was "rural electrification"?

What were the two kinds of power companies identified in this document?

Which kind likely would have provided the cheapest electricity?

What would the installation of electricity have meant to a rural family in 1938?

# DOCUMENT 47 - NEWS RELEASE FROM THE STATE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION COMMITTEE

1938

News Release  
from State Rural Electrification Committee

A record number of Illinois farm homes will receive electricity for the first time during 1938, according to estimates prepared by the State Rural Electrification Committee, Springfield. The Committee estimates that approximately 14,000 farms will be electrified during the year as the result of activities of farmer-owned power cooperatives and privately-owned utility companies.

Approximately 48,000 of the 231,000 farms in Illinois were receiving electric service on January 1, 1938, the Committee said. Of this number, 11,400 farms were electrified during 1937 by cooperatives and utility companies. The Committee announced that utility companies added approximately 10,000 new farm customers in 1937, while cooperative organizations began service to another 1,400 customers.

An average of 10,000 farms have been electrified each year since January 1, 1936, when rural line construction was resumed following a six-year period during which few Illinois farms were electrified. The percentage of farms receiving electric service rose from 13 per cent at the end of 1935 to 21 per cent at the end of 1937, the Committee said.

The Committee estimates that farmer-owned cooperatives which are building rural electric lines with money borrowed from the Federal Rural Electrification Administration will

begin service to 7,000 customers during 1938. Another 7,000 farms will be added to the lines of private utility companies, the Committee said.

The record-breaking increase in electrified farms during 1938 will bring the total in Illinois to an estimated 62,000 according to the State Committee. This will raise the percentage of farms electrified to approximately 27 per cent, an increase of more than 50 per cent over the total of 29,000 farms electrified at the end of 1935.

-30-

## **DOCUMENT 48 – LETTER COMPARING CHICAGO POVERTY TO *THE GRAPES OF WRATH***

**October 12, 1939**

### **EXPLANATION**

John Steinbeck (1902-1968) published *The Grapes of Wrath* in 1939. It graphically described the plight of a family driven out of Oklahoma by the dust storms of the 1930s, their long and hard journey to California, and the tragedy of migrant life once in the land of plenty.

Albert Wentworth Palmer was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1879. He earned a doctor of divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California in 1922 and a doctor of laws degree from Olivett College in Michigan in 1931. He had been president and professor of practical theology at the Chicago Christian Theological Seminary since 1937. He was the author of five major monographs.

The governor was ill when this letter was received. His secretary forwarded it to Neil Jacoby at the University of Chicago for reply.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Albert Palmer asking Governor Horner to do?

What was *The Grapes of Wrath*?

Compared to 1932 or 1933 how bad off were relief clients in Chicago in 1939?

Was Chicago guilty of “social blindness and inhumanity to the poor” in 1939?



DOCUMENT 48 - LETTER COMPARING CHICAGO POVERTY TO *THE GRAPES OF WRATH*

October 12, 1939

THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
5757 University Avenue  
Chicago

October 12, 1939

Albert W. Palmer, D. D., LL.D.,  
President and Professor of Practical Theology

The Honorable Henry Horner  
Governor of Illinois  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Governor:

I hope you have had time to read this summer the remarkable novel, *GRAPES OF WRATH*. After reading Miss Lea Taylor's statement of the desperate situation regarding relief clients here in Chicago I have a terribly uncomfortable feeling that if Mr. Steinbeck were to spend a few weeks in Chicago, he might write a still more terrific indictment of our social blindness and inhumanity to the poor.

Isn't there something which the state and city in cooperation can do quickly to bring reasonable security and comfort to our suffering fellow citizens? I know your heart is in the right place, and I believe you will have the backing of all good citizens if you deal promptly and vigorously with this urgent need.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Albert W. Palmer

AWP:MMH

## **DOCUMENT 49 – LETTER REQUESTING RELIEF FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF A CIVIL WAR VETERAN**

**October 18, 1939**

### **EXPLANATION**

Civil War pensions were this country's first nucleus for a social security system. Although following prior wars provisions had been made for veterans, generally they were one-time payoffs. In the Civil War's aftermath hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans and hundreds of thousands of widows and orphans of deceased veterans presented themselves. Numerically these dependents represented a larger percentage of the population than the nation had ever experienced previously.

Legislation enacted in 1862 provided benefits for veterans or their survivors in the event of service related death or disability. By 1890 the service related requirement was dropped. Old age became a disability in 1906. Civil War veterans and their survivors were enjoying benefits in 1910 similar to the ones later provided for a broader range of Americans by the Social Security Act of 1935.

An assistant to the governor responded to this letter on October 23. He advised Minnie Odle to get in touch with her local relief authorities.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Minnie Odle asking Governor Horner to do?

Which items were Ms. Odle and her sister in need of?

What was the "W.P.A."?

How old were Ms. Odle and her sister likely to have been?

DOCUMENT 49 – LETTER REQUESTING RELIEF FOR THE DAUGHTERS  
OF A CIVIL WAR VETERAN

October 18, 1939

Oct 18 1939

Gov. Henry Horner

Dear sir

I am writing you in regards  
to my sister and my living  
I was apointed conservetor  
for my sister last spring  
she draws a Pension of \$20  
a month as our Father was  
a soldier of the civel war  
and I cant hire any one to  
stay with her as she dosent  
get enough income and now  
we are in need of a coal stove  
and coal and clothes and as  
you Know \$20 dollars a month  
dosent go very far. she is a  
invlad in bed all the time  
has to be taken care of like a  
baby fed and all I have

2

written several letters to  
washington about getting her  
Pension raised but they say  
that is all she is allowed so  
I dont Know what we are going  
to do. I dont want on relief  
I never have been and hope  
I never will. but I have ask  
to get work on W.P.A. Could  
this be aranged as a W.P.A.  
Project taking care of my  
sister. or her getting more  
Pension. so help me if posible  
with Best Regards

Minnie Odle

Macedonia

Ill.

(TRANSCRIPTION)



## **DOCUMENT 50 – LETTER CONCERNING THE MOBILIZATION OF THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD**

**ca. November 13, 1940**

### **EXPLANATION**

The National Guard Mobilization Act of 1940 authorized the president to activate guard units and incorporate them into the regular U.S. Army. Over November 25 and 26, a total of 431 men and officers making up Springfield units of the 106th cavalry regiment received medical examinations, were administered the federal oath, and signed enlistment papers. These procedures took place at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

The balance of the regiment's 1,200 men were headquartered at Chicago and at Urbana. They too were inducted at this time. The 106th was a mechanized cavalry regiment equipped with armored scout cars, motorcycles, and transport trucks. Once formed up they proceeded in convoy fashion down to Camp Beauregard in central Louisiana where they were to receive a year of intensive training.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER**

What was Mark S. Plaisted preparing to do?

Locate Springfield on a map.

Why was the federal government mobilizing the Illinois National Guard?

This document points towards which major event?

DOCUMENT 50 – LETTER CONCERNING THE MOBILIZATION OF THE  
ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD

ca. November 13, 1940

Headquarters, 106th Cavalry  
Room 318, Elk's Club  
Springfield, Illinois

Mr. J. H. Lloyd, Director  
Department of Agriculture  
State of Illinois  
City

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

On behalf of the officers and men of the 106th Cavalry, who will be inducted into federal service on November 25, I wish to thank you for the use of the 4-H Building, at the Fairgrounds during the period of mobilization.

Our regimental history shows that, as the First Illinois Cavalry, its mobilization point for service on the Mexican border (1916) and the World War (1917) was at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

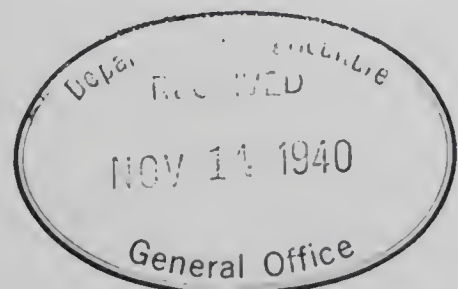
It is understood that the 106th Cavalry, will pay for its use of utilities during the period it is in the building from Federal funds, and will maintain the necessary heat in the buildings from now until November 25, to prevent the water pipes from freezing.

Again thanking you and with kindest personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

*Mark S. Plaisted*

Mark S. Plaisted  
Lt. Col. 106 Cavalry  
Commanding



















UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 122620377



50743015

January 13th, 1930.

Governor L. Emerson,  
State House,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Your Honor:-

We are City employees and come under the Division of Public Works. We are Civil Service employees and our title is "Bath Attendants." We were employed in the Free Public Baths, same being maintained for the health and cleanliness of the poor. Mothers and children have patronized these places, and we have handled women and children in the amount of four and five hundred each week. These places are needed, having been in operation for the past 40 years.

There were twenty-one of us women. We have all been in the Civil Service for the past 14 or 16 years. The City has failed to make any appropriations for our 1930 Budget. We are all widows and some of the women in question are mothers of shell shocked sons from the World War.

We appeal to your Honor, Gov. Emerson of Illinois, to protect our pension, and to the City to make appropriations in the 1930 Budget for the coming year.

Your Honor, we are all now at an age where we cannot seek employment in any other capacity.

We also make appeal to you, being in a drastic position, having to pay for taxes and bills which is impossible, on account of losing our jobs, and same upsets our life in general.

We were looking forward to the receipt of our pensions, and now we are in a most deplorable state. We appeal to your Honor, and also to the City to make the 1930 Budget for us as it was in 1929.

Trusting your Honor will grant us this great favor, we remain.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. Mary Gibbons,  
Mrs. Mary McGrath  
Mr. H. Pearson  
Mr. P. Tarmine  
Mrs. Jennie Honabine

Mrs. Rose Grenshaw

Mrs. Catherine Parker  
Mr. Wm. Whalen  
Mrs. Anne Sullivan  
Mrs. Hannah Scanlon  
Mrs. Frederica O'Brien

*Da 9 am m n  
File - Chicago*





PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE  
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS
DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
CLT = Cable Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at State Capital Building, Springfield, Ills.

31NG N 134 GOVT

WASHINGTON DC 126P APRIL 28 1930

HON LOUIS L EMMERSON

GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

THE PRESIDENT COMMA IN FURTHERANCE OF COOPERATIVE MEASURERS WITH YOU TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION COMMA WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD REVIEW FOR HIM THE PRESENT SITUATION IN YOUR STATE PERIOD FOR SUCH PURPOSE COMMA PERHAPS YOU WOULD ADVISE HIM OF YOUR OPINION AS TO THE SITUATION BY REPLY TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS COLON FIRST IS THERE NOW MORE THAN USUAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN YOUR STATE DECIDE IF THERE REMAINS SUBSTANTIALLY ABNORMAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMMA HAS THERE BEEN A DECREASE SINCE MID JANUARY THIRD HAS THERE BEEN A DECREASE SINCE APRIL FIRST FOURTH DOES THE OUTLOOK WARRANT THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

*Read to Mr. Cohen by telephone 11/11/30  
Mr. Cohen. 11/11/30  
to office 11/11/30  
arrived at 11/11/30  
J. C. Willever*

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

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Received at State Capital Building, Springfield, Ills.

AN EXPECTANCE OF STILL FURTHER DECREASE DURING MAY FIFTH IF THERE NOW REMAINS UNUSUAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMMA CAN YOU MAKE A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER STOP A REPLY BY WEDNESDAY WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

R P LAMONT

SECY OF COMMERCE

148P

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE





CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER
Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.	

# COPY OF WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS  
NOVEMBER 6 1930

HON PATRICK J HURLEY  
SECRETARY OF WAR  
WASHINGTON D C

THE EMERGENCY EXISTING IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT PARTICULARLY AND ACUTELY SO IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO IN MY JUDGMENT PRESENTS A SITUATION WITH WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE ALMOST UNABLE TO COPE AND WHICH FULLY JUSTIFIES MY ASKING YOU TO DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER BY WAY OF LOAN OF ALL COTS BLANKETS AND ANY OTHER ARMY EQUIPMENT THAT MAY BE INDISPENSABLY NECESSARY TO BE RECEIVED AND ACCOUNTED FOR BY COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT I HAVE APPOINTED STOP I AM AWARE OF RESTRICTIONS RESPECTING DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY REAL OR PERSONAL BY LOAN OR SALE STOP AM ALSO AWARE IN GREAT EMERGENCIES RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN DISREGARDED AND NECESSARY URGENT RELIEF EXTENDED STOP GENERAL CROWDER WITH WHOM I HAVE CONFERRED AND WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH THIS TELEGRAM THE SITUATION AS IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO HIM BY MY STATE WIDE COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT STOP AFTER PERSONAL VISITATION AND INSPECTION AND AVAILING MYSELF OF ALL SOURCES OF INFORMATION I AM COMPELLED TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION AS ACUTE AND CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF

LOUIS L EMMERSON  
GOVERNOR

PREPAID  
CHARGE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

*See 28-Unemployment*





HENRY T. RAINEY  
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C.      January 14 1931

Hon. S. E. Pierson,  
Carrollton,  
Illinois.

Dear Stuart:

Farmers are probably inquiring from you now as to loans under the pending Drought Relief Bill. I am sending you this communication so you may know how to advise them - I am already beginning to hear from them.

The Drought Relief Bill is now in conference and it will probably not become a law until the expiration of a week or ten days from now - It may be vetoed by the President, this will make still further delay. It is understood that the President is opposed to that part of the bill which provides for loans for purchases of food for farmers and city dwellers. As the matter now stands, \$15,000,000 of the total of \$60,000,000 appropriated under the bill may be used in making loans to farmers and city dwellers for purchases of food stuffs, for which, of course, chattle mortgages must be given.

A person applying for a loan under the bill must establish the fact that he cannot get the money from any other source - the rate of interest will probably be 6%. Farmers borrowing for the purpose of purchasing seed must mortgage the crop to be planted. I do not think this can be done in Illinois. I have not practiced law for many years but my understanding is that under the law of Illinois the crop must be planted before a mortgage can be given on it.

There is nothing new in the proposition we have made appropriations before for the purpose of enabling farmers to purchase seed and fertilizer. This loan goes a little further, however, and provides for the purchase of feed for work animals. Commencing with the Act of 1921 we have had six appropriations for the purpose of purchasing seed and fertilizer, aggregating in all from sixteen to eighteen millions of dollars. Of this total amount Illinois only received \$2,450, and of this amount only \$334 was ever repaid to the government. You will, therefore, note that Illinois never seems to fit very well into any proposition of this kind.

Later on, when the bill passes, distribution will be made under a unit to be organized by the Secretary of Agriculture and under plans to be formulated by them our

HENRY T. RAINEY  
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

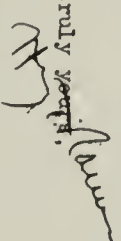
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Hon. S. E. P.

- 2 -

Farm Advisers at that time will probably be fully informed as to how loans can be obtained.

The feeling here is that we have entered upon a prolonged period of depression, probably extending over several years and that the worst is yet to come. Approximately one thousand banks failed last year. We understand here that certain large New York banks are no longer considered safe. Agricultural sections like ours will feel the depression more even than the industrial sections.

Very truly yours,  




LAW OFFICES

**GORDON CANNING**3301 LAWRENCE AVENUE  
CHICAGO

TELEPHONE JUNIPER 1114

March 5, 1931

Hon. Louis L. Emmerson,  
Springfield, Illinois.

My dear Governor:

I respectfully request that Private Vincent Fredrick (a minor) be discharged from the United States Army for dependency which has come about since his enlistment.

I understand that his father and mother are both sick and have been out of work for a long period of time. They inform me that it is absolutely necessary that they have the aid and support of their son. The mother is seriously ill with heart trouble and is under doctor's care. I further understand that the father is sick with a tumor and is unable to find work.

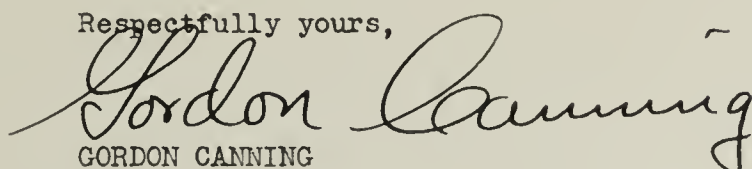
I believe they are both desperately in need of financial assistance and need the aid and support of their son.

The son, Private Vincent Fredrick, is stationed at the Medical Detachment, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and I understand his service has been honorable. He will not be due for discharge until May 5, 1933. He is nineteen years old (born September 7, 1911) and enlisted May 5, 1930 in Chicago.

Any possible assistance you could give these people, by discharging their son from the Army, or by your notifying the Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington, D. C., requesting him to have Private Vincent Fredrick discharged for dependency which has come about since his enlistment, would be greatly appreciated by this family.

From my observation, this appears to be a pitiful case and greatly in need of your consideration.

Respectfully yours,



GORDON CANNING

GC:VB

Inc - 1





## DICKINSON, SMITH, FARRELL &amp; WHAM

J. M. DICKINSON, JR.  
 GEORGE D. SMITH  
 EDWARD J. FARRELL  
 BENJAMIN WHAM  
 MARION T. MARTIN  
 ROBERT REID

231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
 CHICAGO  
 TELEPHONE RANDOLPH 4440

JACOB M. DICKINSON  
 DECEASED  
 FORMERLY  
 OF COUNSEL

August 15, 1931.

Hon. L. L. Emmerson  
 Capitol Building  
 Springfield, Illinois.

PERSONAL

Dear Governor Emmerson:

I have flattered myself that I knew you pretty well for a number of years, especially since I was Legal Secretary to Hon. David E. Shanahan, Speaker of the House in 1923. While I have not been particularly active in politics, I have always kept in touch and am a Republican Precinct Committeeman in Evanston. This last office, however, was largely thrust upon me.

I have noticed that a few lawyers in Chicago are being favored with State Bank receiverships and appointments as attorneys for receivers and I am wondering if it is not possible for me to get some of this business. If there is any doubt about my ability to handle the work, certainly the other members of my firm are fully capable of doing so.

I spoke to Mr. Shanahan about the matter and he seemed to feel that Mr. Oscar Nelson had full control of these appointments. I have talked to Mr. Nelson on the telephone a time or two, but thus far have been unable to obtain an appointment with him.

I am wondering if you would care to say a word for me in this connection?

With best personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Benjamin Wham*

P.S. I was very glad to see you and the Board of Trustees get together on the University appropriation.

*B.W.*

BW:MH

*9-17-31  
 12-1-31  
 -Emmerson*





ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
HA 023.975-

October 13, 1931

The Honorable  
The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you of the receipt of a communication from the American Consul General at Vienna, Austria, requesting on behalf of Doctor Karl Forchheimer of the Austrian Ministry of Social Welfare copies of legislative enactments in your State dealing with unemployment, and I shall be pleased to receive, if it may be found practicable, leaflets or pamphlets containing the information desired.

For your convenience in the transmission of any publications a franked addressed label is enclosed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Enclosure:  
Franked label.



Pequotton, Ill.  
Nov. 24, 1931.

Dear Mr. Emerson:

I am coming to  
you with my plea, to see  
if you could help me out.

About three months  
ago my home burned down  
with furniture, clothes, and  
everything I had.

I got \$2176 insurance  
money and went to the City  
National Bank of Peoria to  
cash the check.

The cashier told me I'll  
have to leave the check there  
for three or four days to see

if it was good.

On the 4th day I went  
to the bank to cash the note, but  
the bank was closed,

Now all the money I had  
is gone I can't even find a  
roof to sleep under.

I am begging you to see  
if you can help me get at  
least part of my moving back  
so I can buy some clothes & some  
things to eat for my children.

I am over fifty years old  
and out of employment.  
I am depending upon  
very much.

Yours sincerely,  
Walter Simpson.





Towards All.  
Dear Sir:

I have only  
had 10 months work in  
the last 2 years and  
in that 10 months I only  
made \$16 per week. I have  
\$40 in savings I deposit  
in the Exchange State  
Bank in Lawrence. I  
they refuse to let me  
have a dollar of it.  
I have been out of work  
now for 3 months I  
have a wife and boy  
7 yrs old.  
Could you in any  
way help me to get

that \$20 that would  
keep me for a while  
at least.

Thanking you in advance  
for any help you might  
give me to get the money  
that belongs to me

over  
J. Galen Eby  
Lawrence  
Mo.  
All.





**Board Of Directors**

J. L. Sparling, President  
J. F. Hickman, Sec. Treas.

D. A. Adamson  
J. E. Thomas  
E. F. Moore

# Moweaqua Coal Corporation

Erie Sootless Coal

MOWEAQUA, ILL., July 28, 1932. 1931

Gov. L. L. Emmerson,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Governor:

The Coal Mine and properties were leased by some citizens of this community last year to prevent the mine from being closed in these strenuous times. Last winter was a very mild winter and the sales were low. We hoisted 31,000 tons until April first.

This mine employed about 110 men last year. About thirty truckers hauled coal from here to adjoining towns and vicinities for twenty miles or more distant.

We are indoubt if we can start operation this year without some money. If we had \$1000 we could start and employ about 150 for the winter which would enable them to feed themselves and their families.

I think we could repay this amount of money barring an act of God or the encroachment of the common enemy.

Is our situation one that the Relief Finance Corporation can assist? A little assistance just now will enable this community to take care of about six hundred men, women and children without outside relief.

We would like to sell some of the State Institutions coal.

I am writing you these facts, briefly stated, Governor knowing that if there is any provision for such relief you will get us in touch with the plan, method and officials.

We assure you that we shall appreciate your interest in this matter more than we can tell.

Very truly yours,

*J. F. Hickman*, Secretary





Fort Lager, W.  
Aug. 22, 1932.

D. F. E. Board  
Springfield, Wl.  
Dear Sirs:—

I am writing  
you for information in  
regard to mortgages against  
our little homestead.

We have a 12 acre  
homestead farm, on State  
Highway #3, near miles  
North of Chester, Randolph Co.

We bought the farm  
4 years ago for \$2500 and  
now I don't think we  
worth more than \$2000  
We borrowed \$1300 from

(11)

Commerce Building Loan  
Association and \$700 from  
First State Bank of Chester, Va.  
at the time of purchase.  
Last year we refinanced  
in Building Loan for \$1700.

There is what amounts to  
\$2200 on our debt  
which is worth about \$2000,

Can you do anything for us?

I am writing direct,  
because I don't think the  
Commerce Building Loan  
could do any real work.

Yours respectfully  
Charles Seymour

P.S. The \$700 note is a Security Note.  
We could get by, if that was paid.





AH

1304 West Washington St.,  
Champaign, Illinois, September 7, 1932.

Hon. Louis L. Emerson,  
Governor,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear sir:-

I desire to bring to your attention the matter of my situation at the present time and want your advice as to what I can do to keep from losing my home through foreclosure proceedings which I fear will soon be instituted against me.

I have a house, a green house and 2 acres of ground in Champaign, Illinois. The mortgage is due on my property and I am unable to pay it.

My property in normal times is worth \$ 14,000.00 but at the present it would be hard to procure a buyer for more than \$8,000.00 and buyers are very scarce at that.

I am a man 72 years of age; as a lad I remember of walking in the funeral procession of President Lincoln as it passed from one depot to another at Bloomington; as a man I have been a follower of his and of the party which he created, during all the time since having arrived at my legal majority.

I am a tree surgeon and normally have work to do most of the time but the depression has hit our community pretty hard and I have not been able to get along very well for the past few seasons.

For references I refer you to Prof. J.M.White, of the Architect School at the University heree, to Mayor Chas J. Mullikin and to H.W.Miller one of our attorneys here.

I am wondering if I can get any relief by getting a loan from the new federal loan board.

I shall be very glad to hear fro m you at your earliest convenience, and if you can see fit to lend your aid in getting a loan on my property in the new loan of the government I shall appreciate it.

Very truly,

Wm H. O'Brien





Venice Sept 9: 1932.

Gov. Emmerson  
Dear Sir:

We owe 3 years  
taxes on our home and  
have Fifteen hundred Dollars Loan  
on it

Will you please help  
us to get the money out  
of the home Loan

They told us  
to day we had to pay  
our taxes or we would  
lose our home.

We are old and  
have six children 3 married  
and 2 miners havent had  
but very little work for 3 years

Please be so kind and  
let us know what  
we can do to save our  
home its all we have

Respectfully  
Joseph and Josephine Lierkes  
1003 Fourth Street Venice Ills





DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1932

In reply refer to  
DP 811.00B/1352

The Honorable

The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a note of October 10, 1932, received in the Department of State from the Royal Italian Ambassador in Washington relative to his belief in the possibility that acts of violence may be attempted against Italian personalities and institutions in the United States, by persons opposed to the present political régime in Italy, on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the establishment of Fascism (October 28 to 31).

In view of the presence of Italian consular officers at Chicago and Springfield, I consider it appropriate to invite your earnest consideration to the matter and would appreciate your advising me of any measures which

-2-

which you may consider possible and proper to take in the circumstances.

Copies of the Ambassador's note are being transmitted to the appropriate Federal and State authorities.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Henry A. Stimson*

Enclosure:  
From Italian Embassy,  
October 10, 1932.





RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION  
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1932.

Honorable Louis L. Emmerson,  
Governor of Illinois,  
State House,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Governor Emmerson:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your application,  
dated October 24, 1932, for Six Million, Three Hundred Three  
Thousand, One Hundred Fifty (\$6,303,150.00) Dollars, for the follow-  
ing counties of your State:

Adams	Jackson	Ogle
Alexander	Jefferson	Peoria
Bond	Jersey	Perry
Bureau	Kane	Pulaski
Cass	Kankakee	Putnam
Christian	Kendall	Randolph
Clark	Knox	Rock Island
Clinton	Lake	St. Clair
Coles	LaSalle	Saline
Cook	Lawrence	Sangemon
DeKalb	Lee	Schuyler
DeWitt	Livingston	Tazewell
DuPage	Macon	Union
Edgar	Macoupin	Vermilion
Edwards	Madison	Warren
Franklin	Marion	Washington
Fulton	Massac	Whiteside
Gallatin	McDonough	Will
Grundy	McLean	Williamson
Hamilton	Montgomery	Winnebago
Henry	Morgan	

Sincerely yours,

*Fred C. Croxton*  
Fred C. Croxton,  
Assistant to the Directors.

7





**RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION**  
**WASHINGTON**

May 6, 1933.

Hon. Henry Horner, Governor,  
 State of Illinois,  
 Springfield, Illinois.

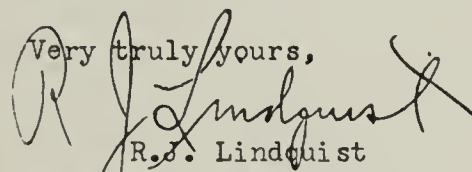
Dear Sir:

We are making an audit of the Chicago Custodian of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, as of the close of business April 15, 1933.

The following is the status of the relief authorizations granted to the State of Illinois as of the close of business April 15, 1933.

Loan No.	Amount Authorized	Amount Disbursed	Undisbursed Balance at 4/15/33
851	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	None
1241	6,000,000.00	3,000,000.00	None
		3,000,000.00	
1242	5,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	None
		4,000,000.00	
1403	6,303,150.00	6,303,150.00	None
1598	4,935,078.00	4,935,078.00	None
1847	485,000.00	485,000.00	None
1848	518,250.00	518,250.00	None
1849	6,245,143.00	1,561,285.00	\$ 4,683,858.00
	3,725,000.00	--	3,725,000.00
Apr 14 -	3,625,000.00	--	3,625,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>\$39,836,621.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$27,802,763.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$12,033,858.00</u></u>

Kindly have the above information checked with the State records and certify as to the correctness thereof on the duplicate of this letter, noting any exceptions thereon.

Very truly yours,  
  
 R. J. Lindquist  
 Chief Auditor

ARB:IF

*Billman*



*Re-  
Violation of  
Prohibition Laws*

STATE 2727

HARRY I. WEISBROD  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
SUITE 1815-1819-77 WEST WASHINGTON ST  
CHICAGO

June 21, 1933

Honorable Henry Horner  
Governor of the State of Illinois  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Governor:

I represent a client who was indicted on March 3rd of this year, in Kane County, for a violation of the Illinois Prohibition Law, which has since been repealed. On January 4, 1933, bills were introduced in both houses for the repeal of the Search and Seizure law and the state prohibition act and approved by your Excellency on March 13, 1933.

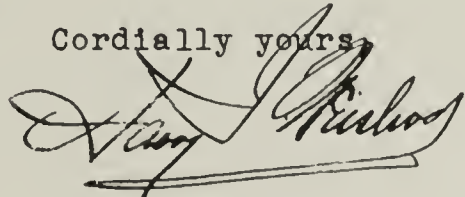
The electorate of the State of Illinois has memorialized both the legislature and Congress in the repeal of this vicious legislation which has remained on the statute books for the past thirteen years. In the light of the states that have already voted to ratify the repeal of the 18th amendment and the three additional states which voted yesterday, I desire to secure an expression from you as to whether the State of Illinois is to be burdened with feeding prisoners for a violation of this law.

I have had a long distance conversation with the States Attorney of Kane County relative to my client and it was his desire to proceed with the prosecution notwithstanding that there is no law on our statute books at the present time. In view of your economy program, do you not think, Governor, that through your gracious office a proclamation of amnesty should be issued at once, or as a matter of political expediency, as soon as the legislature adjourns. Mr. Carberry, the states attorney, said that if I would communicate with you and receive an expression that you would issue a proclamation of amnesty, he would be guided by such expression in nolle prossing all prohibition cases in his county as they have done in other states. Governor, it is needless for me to advise you of the expense entailed in prosecuting these cases in the light of the fact that this law has been removed from the statute books.

With kindest regards, I am

HIW:MS

Cordially yours,







Pension Seattle Washington

Gov. Henry Horner,  
My dear Sir,-

October 1, 1933

OCT 7 1933

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

Not knowing ~~how~~ to direct  
this letter to for the following  
information I feel certain you  
will place it in the right hands.

My husband died on May 8th  
at his desk in the Hall of Science,  
Century of Progress. We are residents  
of Illinois and I am writing to  
see if there is a pension available  
to a widow in the State of Illinois.

Walter Reichardt (my husband)  
was a veteran of the Boxer Rebellion  
in China (cited for bravery) in the  
Spanish American War, Philippine  
Insurrection, Mexican Border  
trouble and two years and four months  
in France during the World War.  
I have been unable to claim a  
pension from the Spanish America  
or World War as his <sup>death</sup> was not  
due to either war. He left no  
estate and it seems as though  
a mere widow who has served  
his country such as he has  
is entitled to a pension, however  
small.

Very truly,

Mrs Walter Reichardt  
4710 University Way  
Seattle, Wash.







SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER

To The Adjutant General of Illinois,  
Springfield, Illinois.

It being apparent that there is in the County of Saline and State of Illinois, a tumult or riot in progress and a mob or body of men acting together by force attempting to commit, and committing violence, and by force attempting to offer and committing violence to persons and property, and by force of violence attempting to break and resist, and by force of violence breaking and resisting the laws of the State, therefore, it is deemed that a time of public disorder and danger exists in certain portions of Saline County.

Now, therefore, because of the said conditions existing in the said County of Saline, and by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by law, I hereby direct and command you to at once order such forces as, in your judgment, you deem necessary to meet the emergency.

You are hereby directed to designate the officer to assume command of said troops, the officer so designated will, according to the military law and usage and the directions of the military code of this State, take immediate active steps to re-establish law and order, and to protect life and property.

In executing these orders the indicated officer will exercise a careful discretion and take such measures as shall be deemed necessary to preserve life and property, restore peace and execute the laws of the State of Illinois. In carrying out this order, you are hereby authorized to take and use such property and means as shall be necessary to the execution of the same.

Dated at Springfield, Illinois, this Fifth day of October,  
A. D. 1933.

*Frank D. Rowland*  
Governor.







RECEIVED  
OCT 21 1933  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
PC

October 19, 1933

The Honorable

The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

The following is an excerpt of a note which has  
been received from the German Embassy with reference  
to the forthcoming visit of the German airship "GRAF  
ZEPPELIN"

"By direction of my Government, I have  
the honor referring to the Embassy's note of  
August 17th of this year, to inform Your Excellency,  
hereinafter, of the itinerary of the German air-  
ship "Graf Zeppelin" during its projected visit  
to the United States:

"Coming from Pernambuco, the airship will  
probably land at Miami, Florida, early on the  
morning of October 23rd, and will continue the  
flight to Akron, Ohio, on the same evening; it  
is to reach Akron on the evening of October 24th.  
During the night of the 26th a round trip to  
Chicago from Akron will be started. If weather  
conditions permit, a call will be made there on  
the morning of October 27th. The airship will  
return to Akron on the same day and will start  
the return trip to Europe from there on October 28th,  
on a direct course.

"Since information has been received from the  
most varied quarters, as I point out confidentially,  
according to which the possibility of a Communist

attack

-2-

attack on the airship, which carries the  
two German national insignia, the black, white  
and red flag and the swastika, at the stern, is  
to be taken into consideration during its stay  
in the United States, I should be grateful to  
Your Excellency if you would be good enough to  
request the proper American authorities to  
take suitable measures for the protection of  
the airship and those on board."

I trust that it will be possible for you to take  
adequate precautionary measures in view of the situation  
described by the German Ambassador.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Carl Lee Huele*





HARRIS AND EWMING

*To the Pupils and Teachers of the United States  
Functionary School*





MEMBERS OF LOCAL  
COMMITTEE

HARRY GERDES, Pres.  
Grant Park  
WM. E. TANNER, Sec.  
Kankakee  
JOHN BUTZ  
Kankakee  
W. A. DENNISON  
Kankakee  
FRED MANN  
Kankakee

MEMBER OF STATE COMMITTEE, KANKAKEE DIST.  
G. A. KRAMER, Kankakee

**KANKAKEE COUNTY**  
**CONCILIATION & DEBT ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE**  
(UNDER APPOINTMENT BY GOVERNOR HORNER)

KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS OF LOCAL  
COMMITTEE

MARTIN NORDMEYER  
Chebanse  
WILLIAM RICE  
Manteno  
FRED SNOW  
Kankakee  
I. W. VOIGT  
Kankakee

Honorable Henry Horner, Governor  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Governor:

January 12, 1934

RECEIVED

JAN 13 1934

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR*Mr. McLaughlin*

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th relative to your appointment of me as a member of the State Agricultural Conciliatory Committee.

There is no questioning the fact that there are many problems facing our citizenship in these days for which new machinery for solving these questions might well be set up. While it is true, as you state, that it will require a sacrifice on the part of those who accept such appointments as you have tendered me, yet, I realize that it is an honor to be counted among those who unselfishly make those sacrifices necessary in order to be of assistance in this critical hour in the history of our country.

We, of this generation, have inherited from our forefathers, as a result of their years of labor and sacrifice, a goodly heritage, a heritage which I feel it is the duty of this generation to pass on to the next; namely, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I sincerely believe that we should again return to a policy of individual responsibility under adequate governmental protection with the theory that if we save the individual home unit, every institution that is rendering a useful service will automatically be restored to its rightful and only place, that of service to society.

While it does seem strange to me that one who has never had the opportunities of a higher education should be selected to this responsible position to help in putting into effect a new theory of economic relationship, yet, I suspect that those of us who deal primarily with nature on farm and field have more of an opportunity to acquire ideas of justice that are both fundamental and practical than many of those whose lot has fallen in our great centers of population with their attendant, rush and turmoil.

I, therefore, accept the appointment you have tendered, hoping that I shall be worthy of the confidence you have placed in me.

Very truly yours,

*Wm. E. Tanner*

SET:LT



1405 N. Franklin Street  
 Litchfield, Illinois  
 January 22, 1934.

Governor Henry Horner,  
 Springfield, Illinois

RECEIVED

JAN 24 1934

OFFICE OF THE  
 GOVERNOR

Dear Governor:

I wish to ask you if there is a law providing for a pension for soldiers widows. I read an article in the paper two years ago where there had been a law providing for \$20 for the widow and \$6 per child per mo. However I have not been able to find out any more concerning it.

I am a soldiers widow, with 7 children age from 15 to 3 years. My youngest are twins born three weeks after their father was killed when his car was struck by a fast express train as he was returning home from a neighbor after borrowing medicine for a sick horse.

The R.R. company did not allow me any damages, or funeral expenses.

Our living expenses are large and what money we had is almost exhausted.

My husband was disabled during his service and drew at one time for two years a 30% disability and 10% to the time of death. I have been told due to this I am entitled to some pension. My husbands name and claim no are John E. Huber. C-341769.

If you can not be of any service to me please forward to the right party.

yours truly,  
 Mrs. Martha Vallie Huber,





1217-A

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER
Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.	

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

C O P Y

AAB11 58 NL XC VI TAYLORVILLE ILL L 1934 FEB 2 AM 1259

HENRY HORNER  
GOVERNOR SPRINGFIELD ILL

WE THE WOMEN OF TAYLORVILLE AUXILIARY OF THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS OF AMERICA INDIGNANTLY PROTEST THE HURLING OF GAS BOMBS BY UNKNOWN PERSONS INTO A MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD THE NIGHT OF JAN 31 IN PROGRESSIVE MINERS HALL OUR COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS REFUSE PROTECTION STATES ATTORNEY FRANKLY ADMITS INCAPABILITY TO COPE WITH SITUATION WE DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION.  
COMMITTEE WOMENS AUXILIARY OF THE PROGRESSIVE MINERS

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



Lawrence Warner  
Springfield, Ill.

501 N. 123rd Street  
Chicago, Ill.  
February 13, 1934

RECEIVED  
FEB 15 1934  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

Your Excellency:-

With hundreds and thousands of money of the poor people like myself tied up in the First State Bank of this city, crying for bread and justice, why must the bank go into receivership. Why can't the assets of the state open the bank on 40% basis as thousands sign waving.

The the people of the State of Illinois elected you as our Governor, myself and others appeal to you for the sake of the many poor and destitute, won't you kindly see the we get the square deal, the bank to be re-opened and we get

on 40% at once.

Trusting to the Almighty and hoping sincerely that you will look into the matter, I beg to remain

Yours humble servant,  
Lawrence Warner





Stam, Ill. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1934  
1820 La Salle St

Mr. Walter W. Laughlin,  
"Director of the State Dept.  
of Agriculture"  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Mr. W. Laughlin:-

May I ask your personal advice for  
following.

I have about 10 1/2 acres of good land  
on the foot of Catharine's hill in this City, for the  
last two years the Reel has rented this  
land for his Garden, the rental & assessed  
was not enough to pay my taxes and special  
assessments on said land so I must look  
out for something which will give me some  
interest on my investment.

May I state that for the last four years  
I am unable to do any work account of injury  
to my left knee, may be you recall that I wrote  
to the mine superintendent for a land Co. in  
this City and met you several times with  
Dr. Postma.

I have not the money on hand to  
invest for seed to keep land in cultivation  
some acres in corn, clover, potatoes and  
vegetables, have two boys old enough to give  
me a lift and some of my neighbors I am  
sure will help me.

Do you think your Department  
could or should furnish me the seed  
needed for above purpose? I am glad  
to return at the end of harvest same  
amount of seed to your Department.

At present I am just up against it  
having no income for years. Rent, Gas,  
light and other bills have brought me  
down that I am just penniless at  
present and with 5 children under 16  
years of age you can figure out for your  
self what hardship I am going through.  
I surely will highly appreciate your  
advice and anything you can do to  
pull me out.

Thanking you in advance for  
your attention and could it be a  
favorable reply. I remain,

Sincerely yours  
Peter Van Dyke



C6803 50M 12-33 82

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION  
CHICAGO OFFICE  
10 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 7410

RECEIVED

MAR 1 1934

LIBRARY EXTENSION DIVISION.

February 28, 1934

## MEMBERS

ROBERT J. DUNHAM OF CHICAGO  
CHAIRMANOMAR H. WRIGHT OF BELVIDERE  
VICE CHAIRMANGEORGE A. BARR OF JOLIET  
SECRETARYEDWARD J. BARRETT OF CHICAGO  
CHARLES BOESCHENSTEIN OF EDWARDSVILLE

JOHN C. MARTIN OF SALEM

VICTOR A. OLANDER OF CHICAGO

J. J. RICE OF CHICAGO

JOHN PIERRE ROCHE OF CHICAGO

WILLIAM H. SEXTON OF CHICAGO

WILFRED S. REYNOLDS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARYFRANK Z. GLICK  
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARYRUSSELL L. PETERS  
CHIEF AUDITORROBERT J. MYERS  
CHIEF STATISTICIANF. A. DENISTON  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Miss Anna May Price  
Library Extension Division  
State Library  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Miss Price:

Your letter of February 26th addressed to Mr. Riggs who is our Camp Director at Algonquin, Illinois, has been referred to me for reply. The Federal Transient Service in Illinois is now registering and providing shelters for transients at seven points in the state, namely: Chicago, Rockford, Moline, Springfield, Danville, East St. Louis, and Cairo. Library facilities in these transient shelters have been arranged with the local libraries.

It is the intention of the Illinois Service Bureau for Transients to establish work camps outside of the urban centers as an outlet for these registration points. We are just getting under way in the matter of establishing such camps. Our first camp has been established one and one-half miles north of Algonquin, Illinois on the Fox River, and it is at this point that we are now interested in obtaining library facilities. We are negotiating for other work projects which may provide camp sites at various places in the state but we are not in position to arrange for library extension facilities for them at the present time.

Regarding the Civilian Conservation Camps we have no information available here as to their number or location, but I believe the CCC Camp program has already established library facilities.

Our immediate requirements as stated above, would be limited to the Camp at Algonquin, Illinois and an extension of this program is desired as rapidly as additional camps are established.

Very truly yours,



H. O. Bartlett  
Supervisor, Work-Camps

HOB:MBH







MASON ILL.

APRIL 7 1934

Hon. Henry Horner  
Governor of Illinois  
Springfield Ill.

RECEIVED

APR 9 1934

OFFICE OF  
GOVERNOR

Dear Sir:

I wrote the secretary of state on March 24 in regard to time extension for securing auto license by those teachers who are not being paid because of failure of the state to fully and promptly pay the amounts anticipated in the planning of school budgets and slow tax collections. The use of an automobile is in many instances a necessity. I am of the opinion that in some places that permission was granted last year. If it appears just and practical to the Governor, I am sure that many of the teachers would be helped much toward passing the interval of their credit existence by a reasonable extension of time for purchase of licenses for their cars.

Please advise promptly so there may be no embarrassment before the traffic court!

Respectfully,

*J. H. Crawford*



ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



In reply refer to  
Le 251.11-Insull, Samuel/538

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 13, 1934

The Honorable

The Governor of Illinois,  
Springfield.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 11, 1934, with which you enclosed your requisition and accompanying documents for the extradition of Samuel Insull from Turkey on the charges of embezzlement and larceny pending in your State.

My information indicates that Insull has already been surrendered by the Turkish Government to the Agents of the United States in extradition proceedings based upon the Federal charges of violation of the bankruptcy laws, fraud by an officer or director of a corporation, and fraudulent use of the mails.

I regret that your requisition was not received in time so that Insull's extradition might also have been requested on the charges against him in your State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Correll Hull*





COPY

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED		CABLE	
DOMESTIC		FULL RATE	
TELEGRAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFERRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	NIGHT CABLE LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT MESSAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK END CABLE LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

POSTAL TELEGRAPH—CABLE CO.

**TELEGRAM**

HON WILLIAM A COMSTOCK  
GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN  
LANSING MICHIGAN

SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS  
MAY 9 1934

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE FOR THE APPREHENSION OF THE  
ESCAPED CRIMINAL JOHN DILLINGER WILL YOU JOIN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN  
OFFERING A JOINT REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE STOP ILLINOIS STANDS READY TO  
OFFER ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY OUR LAW AND IF THE  
STATES OF INDIANA OHIO MICHIGAN AND MINNESOTA WILL JOIN US A TOTAL OF  
FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS WILL BE THE REWARD TO THE PERSON OR PERSONS CAPTURING  
HIM AND TURNING HIM OVER TO A DESIGNATED OFFICER IN EITHER OF OUR STATES  
STOP I AM MAKING THE SAME SUGGESTION TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE OTHER STATES  
STOP IT WILL BE WORTH THIS COMBINED REWARD TO PLACE DILLINGER IN CUSTODY  
STOP SO LONG AS HE IS AT LARGE THE WELFARE AND PEACE OF OUR CITIZENS

COPY

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED		CABLE	
DOMESTIC		FULL RATE	
TELEGRAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFERRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	NIGHT CABLE LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT MESSAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEEK END CABLE LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

POSTAL TELEGRAPH—CABLE CO.

**TELEGRAM**

- 2 -

ARE MENACED AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER IS THREATENED STOP WHILE  
THIS JOINT OFFER MAY BE UNUSUAL THE CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFY IT STOP I URGE  
YOUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THIS PLAN AND YOUR PROMPT REPLY.

HENRY HORNER

GOVERNOR

CHG: Executive Office



THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1220-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cable-gram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

**WESTERN UNION**

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

1934 OCT 1 AM 5 30

CB10 176 NL CNT 1 PGH AND ALL PCTNS 3 EXTRA

1/144=CK CHICAGO ILL 30

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
PULL-DATE	DAY LETTER

GOVERNOR HORNER=

STATE CAPITOL SPRINGFIELD ILL=

*Democratic  
celebrating  
BS*

THE SECOND UNITEDSTATES CONGRESS AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM ASSEMBLED IN ASHLAND AUDITORIUM,CHICAGO,ILLINOIS, SETPEMBER 28-30, REPRESENTING POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS OF ALL SHADES,LOCALS OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR,CHURCHES, CULTURAL,FRATERNAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS,REPRESENTING TOTALLY NEARLY 2,000,000 PEOPLE OF THE UNITEDSTATES,LEARN THAT THE ILLINOIS STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HAS ARBITRARILY ELIMINATED THE STATE TICKET OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM THE BALLOT OF NOVEMBER 6TH ,1934 ELECTIONS.

IN THIS ACT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, WE SEE AN INTRODUCTION OF FASCIST METHODS BY MEANS OF DEPRIVING THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE TO THE BALLOT BY ELIMINATING A POLITICAL PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS,THE COMMUNIST PARTY.=

END 1

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

31

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1220-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cable-gram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

**WESTERN UNION** (31)

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

1934 OCT 1 AM 5 32

CB10 2/32=

IT IS AN ACT OF ASSAULT UPON THE CIVIL RIGHTS

OF THE PEOPLE,THEREFORE,WE UNCONDITIONALLY DEMAND THE PLACING ON THE BALLOT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.=

DR WARD CHAIRMAN

ANNIE GRAY SECRETARY.

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
PULL-DATE	DAY LETTER

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE







ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION  
1319 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago

WORK AND REHABILITATION DIVISION

MEMORANDUM NO. 100

November 14, 1934

District Representatives  
County Emergency Relief Committees  
County Work Relief Committees  
County Relief Administrators  
County Garden Committees and Supervisors  
Work Relief Superintendents

Subject: Fall Plowing

1. The Commission's approval has been given for fall plowing for subsistence gardens. This work must be done by work relief. In making assignments, it is suggested that preference be given to those wishing to work to repay drought relief or rural rehabilitation loans.

2. If project applications have not already been submitted for this work, they should be sent in immediately. The county relief authorities are urged to secure the best land possible for these garden sites, as vegetables are very responsive to good soil conditions.

3. In planning for the garden program, an effort should be made to have all the garden plots for a community concentrated in a single area. Allowance should be made for individual plots the same sizes as were used this year, 50 x 100 and 50 x 150.

4. If it is possible to secure manure from local stockyards or other sources at no expense to the Commission, this should be applied before plowing, but, in no case, should the commercial fertilizer remaining from the amount sent to the counties for this year's program be applied this fall. This fertilizer should be held for spring application.

5. Due to the lateness of the season, the counties are urged to take immediate action on this plowing.

ARTHUR P. HOLT, Director  
Subsistence Gardens



HERBERT H. VERTREES, Mayor

GUY CARLTON, Clerk

FRANK MAIN, Treasurer

## Aldermen

Pat McGuire  
Walter Hassett  
C. E. Hesley

# CITY of PITTSFIELD

*Pittsfield, Illinois*

## Aldermen

Geo. Peters  
Chas. Sneed  
Henry Diamond

Nov. 26th, 1934

Hon. Walter W. McLaughlin, Director,  
Director of Agriculture,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:- I am writing you in regard to Local  
Federal Emergency Relief Office here.

I have been receiving numerous complaints from unemployed men who feel that they do not get the proper sympathetic consideration. They can get a few days work each month but it is not enough to provide for thier families and to pay their rent. I can not see how any man can care for his family by just working a few days each month. Even when they do work a few days they have to wait nearly a week to get their pay. When the local releif office fails them they ask me to help them until they can get their money for their work. I am glad to help them and I will not let any one of them go hungry as long as I have a cent left to give them. This is my home City and I know these men and I love them and I certainly will do my part to see that these men are treated honorably and justly. I am particularly interested in the little children who really feel the wrongs most keenly.

There must be something wrong about the methods of administering releif and while I do ~~not~~ understand just how the system is managed, I will say that I am not at all pleased with the results in this locality.

Yours truly,

*Herbert H. Vertrees*  
Mayor.





January 29, 1935

#70f

Statement of Governor Horner, with respect  
to the tragedy of Friday, January 25, 1935.

I have requested and received a report from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission on the recent tragedy in which, during the performance of their duties, Chicago relief workers, Caroline Wallace and Alice Irwin were shot to death and Hazel Dugan and Niels Nielson were seriously wounded, all at the hands of Henry Arden and his mother, who were on relief. The deaths of Mrs. Arden and her son by self inflicted wounds followed the attack on the relief workers.

The facts revealed in this report bring to our attention the acute problems and difficult tasks confronting the men and women who are actively engaged in caring for the needy in our State. Some of these needy persons who, under normal conditions, would support themselves by gainful employment, are undergoing severe emotional strains through long enforced idleness. The tension of these strains is relieved to some extent by our understanding relief workers and by providing work relief, but in some instances all the efforts of our relief workers cannot prevent emotional disturbances. The Ardens were undoubtedly insane.

Having the utmost confidence in the devotion of our relief workers to the problem, I know that they will not permit this tragic occurrence to deter them in their brave efforts to aid the destitute. As shocking as is the occurrence, it shall not discourage any of us, whether public servant or private citizen in our efforts to help those who cannot find employment.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I extend profound sympathy to the relatives and friends of Miss Wallace and Miss Irwin and to Miss Dugan and Mr. Nielson my wishes for a speedy and full recovery. In the members of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission and its many agencies throughout the State responsible for the difficult task facing them, I have the utmost confidence.

The Relief workers throughout the State are entitled to our commendation for their loyal devotion and for the intelligent consideration generally shown by them in ministering to the needs of those in distress during these trying times.

- - - - -



CO-OPERATING WITH THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Officers:

F. J. LAPIN  
Chairman & Manager  
ERNEST A. SCHMIDT  
Vice Chairman  
A. W. ARNEMAN  
Secretary  
MELVIN A. NELSON  
Treasurer

## BUILDING RECOVERY COMMITTEE OF CHICAGO

3226 LINCOLN AVENUE  
PHONE WELLINGTON 0557  
CHICAGO, ILL.

Directors:

JOHN B. BUCKLEY  
ALEX J. DRUECKER  
JAMES W. FETTES  
J. J. FLEISCHMANN  
J. T. FOLEY  
O. S. JACOBSEN  
WM. E. STAUBER

February 2, 1935

RECEIVED

FEB 4 1935

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

Hon. Henry Horner, Governor,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

This group was organized to further the efforts of the Federal Housing Administration for recovery through modernization and building of homes. In connection with these efforts, canvassers have visited thousands of homes trying to interest the owners in this campaign.

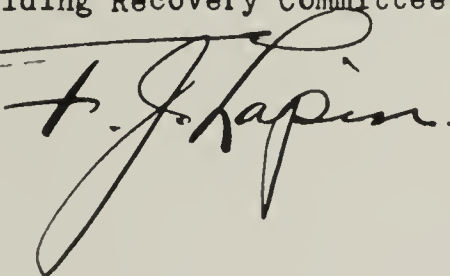
This experience has demonstrated to us that at least seventy five per cent of all Chicago properties are so involved in either defaulted taxes or mortgages that the owners cannot take advantage of the National Housing Act.

In a great many cases an extension of mortgage could be secured providing some definite arrangement could be made on defaulted taxes. The mortgagee would go along if the property were improved or at least repaired and some definite arrangement entered into whereby taxes could be liquidated.

We believe that material aid could be rendered the Federal Housing campaign by devising at this time a means of monthly payments on unpaid taxes and we wish that in some way you may be able to influence some such Regulation.

Respectfully yours,  
Building Recovery Committee.

By:







Governor H.E. Horner  
Springfield, Ill.  
Dear Governor:-

Coulterville, Ill. 2/22/35.

Since my letter of Jan. 7th to you (which you did not answer) in regard to the feed loans; I succeeded in getting a feed loan for the month of Jan, but have been told that is the last of the feed loans for this county.

I would calculate from the inquiries that I have been receiving, about why we cannot get feed and seed loans in this county, that there must be at least 50 farmers in the county needing and wanting the loans, some have went to the Percy office and been sent away cold with the information that there is no such thing as a feed and seed loan, others have been disgusted with the reports that they brought back and did not go; Several requests have come to me asking me to write you asking why we cannot receive the same benefits from the Rehabilitation Act as the Farmers of adjoining counties are.

Governor We are wondering if you are governor of all the counties of the State or only a part of them, and why you do not see that your Constituents do ~~not~~ get the same treatment in all counties

If you cannot have the employees of the Randolph county office give us farmers the benefits of the Rehabilitation Act as they are in other counties then we ask and request that you send a state investigator down here to see what the trouble is.

Seeding time is here and several of us are badly in need of both feed and seed; This letter is in behalf of several farmers of this county; Please answer and take some action.

Yours Truly,

*Alex Birchler*  
*Coulterville*  
*Ill.*

RECEIVED  
FEB 23 1935  
OFFICE



P H O N E  
YARDS 0588



RECEIVED

MAR 6 1935

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

UNION STOCK YARDS  
CHICAGO, ILL.

March 5, 1935.

Governor Henry Horner,  
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Governor:

You, no doubt, have received quite a few messages from out here, and they will bring this case before you. This fight is in our home state, and naturally the Democrats and others look for you to give them a little assistance. Our receipts have been reduced about 35% with the drouth and the curtailment of production, - added to the decrease in commission of 20 to 25%, we had two strikes here and one big fire, - the largest one since the Chicago fire, and this business is about on its last legs.

We have reduced our help about 40 to 50%, and will have to reduce it more, and pay starvation wages, which I know you are against. And if we had an election tomorrow, I would have a hard time getting ten votes for the National Democratic ticket.

Trusting you are enjoying good health, and thanking you for past favors, I am

Sincerely your friend,

*J. E. Quinn*

JEQ M





RECEIVED

MAR 12 1935

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR  
ALBANY, N. Y.

March, 11, 1935

Gov. Henry Horner;  
Springfield, Ill.  
Dear Sir:

I am writing you in regard to an orchard project which is bearing in our locality here in Greene Co. Patterson Township.

As I understand this, this project is to help in need (these orchards) at or least by Gov. orment money, then relief or employed to work them.

The apple growers in this locality who are trying to stay on top during hard times, feel it very

important to use tax money and start the Govt. in a competitive business right here by over side in reclaiming some old orchards that should be cut down, some out of Bankruptcy, etc.

This movement is not fair to our farmers and we do know this some money would be wisely spent on our country needs.

You will find upon investigation that this project has materialized by a few local men seeking a soft Govt. job. If needs be I can send you a petition of this whole community against this orchard project.

Trusting you'll do your utmost to thwart such a movement or at once forward to this appeal to the proper authorities and thanking you we are

Very Respectfully  
Wm. C. P. Cradock





OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

**Herrin Township High School**

EUGENE C. ECKERT, PRINCIPAL

HERRIN, ILL.

4-2-35

Mr. Alexander Wilson  
 Secretary to the Governor  
 Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As you know, school legislation is one of the important topics before the legislature at this time. I am wondering if you can inform me as to what we might reasonably expect this session of the legislature to do in the way of aiding high schools. I am enclosing a financial statement of the Herrin Township High School, which shows the amount of money we will owe by the close of this school year, June 1, 1935; and a number of statements showing what we might possibly receive in revenue between now and September 1, or the opening of the next school year.

Assessments in our school district have declined more than 50% since 1929, and last year the percentage of tax collections was only 52% of the levy. There is no doubt that in Southern Illinois the property tax system has broken down. I believe that the state administration realized this some time ago when they dropped it as far as the State was concerned and switched over to the sales tax for state purposes.

We do not expect to employ our teachers for next year until we have some assurance that there will be state aid for high schools. Our Board is taking the position that they can not go further into debt. As we are approaching the time of year when teachers are usually placed under contract for the next school year, we would appreciate any information which would help us to know whether we should plan for another school year or not. Any information which you or Governor Horner might possibly have at this time will certainly be appreciated.

Cordially yours,

*Eugene C. Eckert*  
 Eugene C. Eckert

ECE/AZ





ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION (FEDERAL)  
MONTHLY REPORT OF WORK RELIEF OPERATIONS  
A P R I L 1 9 3 5

The columns on the following sheets are headed with Roman Numerals corresponding to the numerals opposite the paragraphs below:

I	Number of resident families on relief during month .....	<u>308,544</u>
II	Number of resident non-families on relief during month .....	<u>18,183</u>
III	Total number of resident relief cases during month .....	<u>326,727</u>
IV	Estimated number of resident relief cases having an employable member .....	<u>264,588</u>
V	Total accumulated number of individuals (one to a case) certified as eligible to work to close of month ....	<u>159,393</u>
VI	Total number of different individuals employed on Work Relief during month .....	<u>123,427</u>
VII	Total number of women employed on Work Relief during month .....	<u>8,650</u>
VIII	Total number of men employed on Work Relief during month .....	<u>114,777</u>
IX	Number of resident families represented in Item VI .....	<u>122,936</u>
X	Wages paid for Work Relief during month (regular relief) .....	<u>\$4,054,090.66</u>
XI	Wages paid for Work Relief during month (non-relief) .....	<u>267,907.60</u>
XII	Total wages paid for all Work Relief during month .....	<u>\$4,321,998.26</u>
XIII	Percent total non-relief wages of total relief wages .....	<u>6.2%</u>
XIV	Total number of projects operated in counties during month .....	<u>4,312</u>
XV	Total number of time-lost accidents, to relief workers during month .....	<u>209</u>



Board of Supervisors,  
Fayette County, Illinois.  
Vandalia, Ill.

RECEIVED

August 1, 1936.

AUG 3 - 1936

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

Hon. Henry Horner,  
Springfield, Ill.

My Dear Governor:

I have just talked to Mr. W. M. Farley, director of this area of the I.E.R.C., calling his attention to the serious situation in this county as a result of the prolonged drouth, and I am writing to ask you if it would be possible for you to direct him to make an investigation of this situation and suggest a remedy.

Drouth and other conditions have cut the wheat, oats and hay crops to almost nothing in a great many cases and the corn is now at a stage that it must be placed in silo or something done to save it, with no rain yet in sight.

Would it be possible in this emergency to use WPA labor and distressed farmers on a project to build temporary silos and help to harvest this corn crop and save it.

If anything can be done it must be done very soon and I believe it could best be done through the WPA organization, if that could be liberalized temporarily to include these distressed farmers who are not already on relief or on the WPA rolls.

Very respectfully yours,

*Ray C. Smith*

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors  
Fayette County, Illinois.





# UNITED ELECTRICAL & RADIO WORKERS of AMERICA

G.E. LOCAL NO. 602

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.  
910 Stanton Avenue

COPY

RECEIVED

JUL 11 1937

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

## R E S O L U T I O N

We, the General Electric Local 602, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, New Kensington, Pa., wishing to protest against the vicious treatment accorded Ed Parker, Workers' Alliance organizer in Illinois, by relief authorities and the courts of Cairo, Illinois, submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, wishing to call to the attention of the Mayor, the Courts, the Governor, and the Citizens of Cairo, that Ed Parker is guilty of only one offense -- the offense of leading his fellow workers in an effort to gain a decent standard of living in the richest country in the world; and,

WHEREAS, these workers had worked day and night, in an effort to save the city of Cairo from the rising flood waters of the Ohio River, enduring long hours of back-breaking toil building the levee for a promised wage of 50 cents an hour, which we understand has since been reduced to 31 cents an hour; and,

WHEREAS, when men unemployed or on relief, through no fault of their own, work hours to save their city, and when these same men find that the city repays them by cutting off all relief, delaying pay-checks for months, they have only one recourse; in a united fashion, they must demand their rights -- the right to receive well-earned pay to keep their children from starving, their homes from being wrecked; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: that General Electric Local 602, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, New Kensington, Pa., insist that the privileges of our democracy be preserved and Ed Parker freed.

### APPROVED:

This 10 day of July, 1937, at the regular membership meeting of Local 602, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, New Kensington, Pa.

Andrew Panezich  
PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Harry Buffington  
SECRETARY



# WESTERN UNION

## SPECIAL

Form 1512

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

NUMBER

SHEET

LETTER

Dated

SEPTEMBER 3 1937

To

THE HONORABLE  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON D C

MRS IDA DAHL A RESIDENT OF CHAMPAIGN ILLINOIS HAS APPEALED TO ME TO PREVENT THE EXECUTION OF HER SON HAROLD E DAHL AMERICAN AVIATOR CAPTURED AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN SPAIN BY SPANISH INSURGENTS STOP THE ONLY FACTS OF THE CASE THAT HAVE COME TO ME ARE THROUGH THE PRESS STOP MRS DAHL IS AN ESTIMABLE RESIDENT OF ILLINOIS AND I AM ANXIOUS TO HELP HER SON TO THE VERY LIMIT OF MY CAPACITY STOP I EARNESTLY URGE INVESTIGATION BY YOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE SENTENCE AND THAT YOU EMPLOY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO AVERT THE EXECUTION OF THIS AMERICAN BOY

HENRY HORNER

GOVERNOR





ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO DIVISION OF FOODS AND DAIRIES  
CHICAGO, ILL.

J. H. LLOYD  
DIRECTOR  
B. W. DEBORD  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HENRY HORNER, GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DIVISION OF FOODS AND DAIRIES  
228 SO. WABASH AVENUE  
HARRISON 6672  
CHICAGO

EDWARD F. GERRITY  
SUPERINTENDENT

October 23, 1937

Hon. J. H. Lloyd, Assistant Director  
Department of Agriculture  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

We received your letter and the copies of letters from Dr. Beard regarding the adulteration of food products served to colored patrons at various lunchrooms in Champaign and Urbana.

I have made arrangements to have one of our very good inspectors go to Champaign at once. This particular inspector was picked for his ability and the fact that he is the youngest looking man on our force and can easily pose as a student.

Our plan is to have him call on Dr. Beard and make arrangements to secure a couple of colored students to assist him. These colored students can enter the lunchroom slightly ahead of our inspector who, by the way, has a brother in the University at the present time. They may also be accompanied by another student. Our inspector is to take a seat close to the colored patrons and at the time of serving, if any food is contaminated, he can step up and take a sample. This will have to be done very carefully, because as soon as it is known our investigation is under way, the practice would naturally immediately cease.

The Inspector we are sending is James Burke. As soon as we have made any progress in this case, we shall let you know.

Very truly yours,

*Martin Eisner*

Assistant Superintendent  
DIVISION OF FOODS AND DAIRIES

MH



ILLINOIS WAGES OF HIRED FARM LABOR, 1924-1937

Year and month	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	Supply	Demand	Percent of normal	Supply expressed as percentage of demand
1924								
January	\$38.00	\$50.00	\$2.30	\$3.10	--	--	--	--
April	42.00	56.00	2.35	3.10	85	93	91	91
July	42.00	55.00	2.35	3.00	95	94	101	101
October	40.00	53.00	2.35	3.10	94	92	102	102
1925								
January	38.00	52.00	2.15	2.83	--	--	--	--
April	43.00	56.00	2.35	3.10	95	95	100	100
July	43.00	56.00	2.40	3.10	99	94	105	105
October	42.00	55.00	2.35	3.05	96	93	103	103
1926								
January	39.00	53.00	2.20	2.80	--	--	--	--
April	42.00	54.00	2.15	2.75	97	93	104	104
July	45.00	56.00	2.35	3.00	95	94	101	101
October	42.00	55.00	2.35	3.05	95	93	102	102
1927								
January	43.75	55.00	2.40	3.00	--	--	--	--
April	43.00	55.00	2.15	2.80	96	92	104	104
July	44.00	56.00	2.30	2.90	95	89	107	107
October	42.50	55.00	2.25	2.95	96	81	119	119
1928								
January	40.50	53.00	2.20	2.80	--	--	--	--
April	42.00	54.00	2.10	2.70	101	88	115	115
July	42.75	53.50	2.25	2.85	98	87	113	113
October	43.25	55.00	2.30	2.95	96	88	109	109
1929								
January	41.00	53.25	2.25	2.90	--	--	--	--
April	43.00	55.00	2.20	2.75	97	91	107	107
July	43.25	56.00	2.30	2.90	96	92	104	104
October	43.00	55.25	2.40	2.90	95	88	108	108
1930								
January	40.00	52.00	2.10	2.65	99	87	114	114
April	41.00	52.50	2.15	2.70	101	86	117	117
July	39.50	50.00	2.05	2.50	109	81	135	135
October	38.00	49.25	1.90	2.45	109	74	147	147
1931								
January	33.00	45.00	1.65	2.15	113	74	153	153
April	32.00	43.50	1.60	2.10	112	76	147	147
July	32.00	43.00	1.60	2.10	111	79	141	141
October	30.25	40.25	1.50	1.90	116	67	173	173
1932								
January	25.75	35.25	1.25	1.65	122	63	194	194
April	24.00	33.00	1.20	1.55	126	68	185	185
July	22.25	30.25	1.05	1.40	125	65	192	192
October	21.25	29.50	1.05	1.30	126	60	210	210
(OVER)								

ILLINOIS WAGES OF HIRED FARM LABOR, 1924-1937

Year and month	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	Supply	Demand	Percent of normal	Supply expressed as percentage of demand
1933								
January	\$18.75	\$26.75	\$ .95	\$1.20	128	59	217	217
April	17.50	24.75	.90	1.15	127	64	198	198
July	18.00	25.25	.95	1.25	121	71	170	170
October	18.75	26.25	1.00	1.35	118	64	184	184
1934								
January	17.50	25.75	.95	1.30	116	62	187	187
April	21.00	29.00	1.05	1.35	115	69	167	167
July	21.00	29.00	1.10	1.40	111	68	163	163
October	21.25	29.00	1.15	1.45	108	72	150	150
1935								
January	19.50	29.00	1.05	1.40	108	66	164	164
April	24.00	33.00	1.15	1.55	102	78	131	131
July	25.00	34.25	1.25	1.60	97	85	114	114
October	25.25	34.25	1.35	1.75	95	84	113	113
1936								
January	23.25	32.75	1.25	1.65	98	80	122	122
April	27.00	36.50	1.30	1.70	92	87	106	106
July	28.50	37.75	1.50	1.90	88	88	100	100
October	28.50	37.75	1.50	1.95	85	83	102	102
1937								
January	26.00	36.25	1.40	1.85	91	83	110	110
April	31.50	41.25	1.55	1.95	88	89	99	99
July	32.75	42.25	1.70	2.20	82	92	89	89

Illinois farm wages on April 1, 1937 averaged higher than for the five preceding years and are nearly up to the 1931 wage levels. Farm wages reported on April 1, 1937 with April 1, 1936 and 1931 shown in parentheses follow: Rate per month with board - \$31.50 (\$27.00) (\$32.00). Rate per month without board - \$41.25 (\$36.50) (\$43.50). Rate per day with board - \$1.55 (\$1.30) (\$1.60). Rate per day without board \$1.95 (\$1.70) (\$2.10).

According to records established from quarterly inquiries from our crop correspondents, the demand for farm labor at 89 percent of normal compares with the supply at 88 percent of normal. The demand for farm labor is at the highest figure since July 1929. The April 1, 1937 report shows demand in excess of the supply of farm labor for the first time since April 1924. The supply and demand for farm labor was fairly well balanced during the first half of the 1924 to 1929 period with demand declining somewhat and in less favorable balance with supply during the latter half of this period. The quarterly reports for the most part during the following five years, 1930 through 1934, reflect an unusually adverse employment situation for farm labor due to the drastic drop in demand and a marked increase in supply as members of farm families returned from industrial centers.





THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1220-8

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

## Received at

1938 NOV 12 PM 7 49

AAK125 109 USGOVT=SD WASHINGTON DC 12 NLT=  
THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS=  
SPRINGFIELD ILL=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

ON ACCOUNT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONDITIONS EXISTING IN GERMANY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF REACTION HERE AGAINST GERMAN OFFICIALS AND GERMAN PROPERTY I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IT IS ADVISABLE THAT YOU ASK LOCAL OFFICIALS TO OBSERVE AN INCREASED DEGREE OF VIGILANCE IN AFFORDING PROTECTION TO GERMAN CONSULAR AND OTHER OFFICERS AND GERMAN PROPERTY IN YOUR STATE STEPS LOOKING TO PROTECTION SHOULD INCLUDE CONFERENCES BETWEEN LOCAL OFFICIALS AND GERMAN OFFICIALS WITH RESPECT TO THE NEED OF THE LATTER FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION AND WITH A VIEW TO ASCERTAINING THEIR WISHES IN THE PREMISES GERMAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE STATIONED AT CHICAGO MAY I ASK THAT THIS TELEGRAM BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL=

CORDELL HULL SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



News Release  
from State Rural Electrification Committee

A record number of Illinois farm homes will receive electricity for the first time during 1938, according to estimates prepared by the State Rural Electrification Committee, Springfield. The Committee estimates that approximately 14,000 farms will be electrified during the year as the result of activities of farmer-owned power cooperatives and privately-owned utility companies.

Approximately 48,000 of the 231,000 farms in Illinois were receiving electric service on January 1, 1938, the Committee said. Of this number, 11,400 farms were electrified during 1937 by cooperatives and utility companies. The Committee announced that utility companies added approximately 10,000 new farm customers in 1937, while cooperative organizations began service to another 1,400 customers.

An average of 10,000 farms have been electrified each year since January 1, 1936, when rural line construction was resumed following a six-year period during which few Illinois farms were electrified. The percentage of farms receiving electric service rose from 13 per cent at the end of 1935 to 21 per cent at the end of 1937, the Committee said.

The Committee estimates that farmer-owned cooperatives which are building rural electric lines with money borrowed from the Federal Rural Electrification Administration will

begin service to 7,000 customers during 1938. Another 7,000 farms will be added to the lines of private utility companies, the Committee said.

The record-breaking increase in electrified farms during 1938 will bring the total in Illinois to an estimated 62,000 according to the State Committee. This will raise the percentage of farms electrified to approximately 27 per cent, an increase of more than 50 per cent over the total of 29,000 farms electrified at the end of 1935.





THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
5757 University Avenue  
Chicago

October 12, 1939

Albert W. Palmer, D. D., LL.D.,  
President and Professor of Practical Theology

The Honorable Henry Horner  
Governor of Illinois  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Governor:

I hope you have had time to read this summer the remarkable novel, GRAPES OF WRATH. After reading Miss Lea Taylor's statement of the desperate situation regarding relief clients here in Chicago I have a terribly uncomfortable feeling that if Mr. Steinbeck were to spend a few weeks in Chicago, he might write a still more terrific indictment of our social blindness and inhumanity to the poor.

Isn't there something which the state and city in cooperation can do quickly to bring reasonable security and comfort to our suffering fellow citizens? I know your heart is in the right place, and I believe you will have the backing of all good citizens if you deal promptly and vigorously with this urgent need.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Albert W. Palmer

AWP:MMH



OCT 18 1939

RECEIVED

OCT 21 1939

Hon. Henry Harbo  
Dear Sir  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR

I am writing you in regards  
to my sister and my living.  
I was appointed Conservator  
for my sister last Spring  
she draws a Pension of \$20  
a month as our father was  
a Soldier of the Civil war  
and I cant live any one to  
stay with her as she doesnt  
get enough income and now  
we are in need of a Coal Stove  
and Coal and clothes and as  
you know \$20 doesnt a month  
dont go very far. She is a  
shoeless in bed all the time  
have to be taken care of like a  
baby food and all I have

2

written several letters to  
Washington about getting her  
Pension raised but they say  
that is all she is allowed. I  
dont know what we are going  
to do. I dont want on relief  
I never have been and hope  
I never will. But I have ask  
to get work on W.P.A. Could  
this be arranged as a W.P.A.  
Project taking care of my  
sister. or her getting more  
Pension. So help me if possible  
with Best Regards

Minnie Cagle  
Waco, Texas  
All,





Headquarters, 106th Cavalry  
Room 318, Elk's Club  
Springfield, Illinois

Mr. J. H. Lloyd, Director  
Department of Agriculture  
State of Illinois  
City

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

On behalf of the officers and men of the 106th Cavalry, who will be inducted into federal service on November 25, I wish to thank you for the use of the 4-H Building, at the Fairgrounds during the period of mobilization.

Our regimental history shows that, as the First Illinois Cavalry, its mobilization point for service on the Mexican border (1916) and the World War (1917) was at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

It is understood that the 106th Cavalry, will pay for its use of utilities during the period it is in the building from Federal funds, and will maintain the necessary heat in the buildings from now until November 25, to prevent the water pipes from freezing.

Again thanking you and with kindest personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

*Mark S. Plaisted*

Mark S. Plaisted  
Lt. Col. 106 Cavalry  
Commanding

